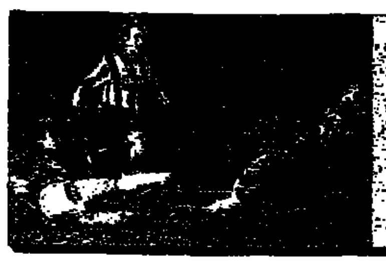
Highway to the isles

Hi-tech provides an escape route from the urban rat race, **page 5**



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Mass for four million

The Pope speaks in Manila to the biggest audience of his reign, **page 11**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,165

MONDAY JANUARY 16 1995

Court martial system 'breaches human rights'

Convicted servicemen take cases to European commission

Elliot: "I don't think I had a fair trial"

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE court martial system is facing an unprecedented challenge before the European Commission of Human Rights.

A dossier of 12 cases has been presented to the Commission alleging that the courts martial operated by the RAF and the Army are in breach of Article Six of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial. A case alleging similar breaches by naval courts is expected to be lodged soon.

The lead case of the 12 is being brought by a former RAF sergeant, Peter Elliot, of Skirlaugh, Humberside, who was sentenced to nine months in prison after being found guilty of using threatening, abusive and insulting behaviour. Mr Elliot, 37, who was an RAF policeman, was dismissed after 19 years in the service and is now unemployed.

The dossier of cases, submitted by Gilbert Blades, a solicitor from Lincoln, has crossed the first hurdle on its way to the European Court of Human Rights. Last month the commission examined the application and decided to notify the Government about it. The next stage is likely to be an oral hearing.

Mr Blades argues that the court martial system is unjust. He says it discriminates against the accused and does not have the same standards of fairness, or burden of proof, as in the criminal courts generally; and that there is no proper and fully independent right of appeal against sentence. He wants the system changed, as in Canada, to give service personnel the right to elect trial by jury.

"What runs through all the cases I have been handling is that these people do not get a fair trial," he said. "The discplinary panel is appointed by the prosecutor, not picked at random, so you have the same people effectively being prosecution, judge and jury." If convicted of a charge such as assault, the accused had no realistic avenue of appeal against sentence, he added.

The Ministry of Defence maintains that the court martial system is laid down by Acts of Parliament and all recruits are told that they will be subject to the system. It says that, as far as possible and where appropriate, the system mirrors aspects of the civilian system but also has to reflect the special circumstances of service life.

A serviceman can seek leave to appeal against conviction to the Courts-Martial Appeal Court, where the judges are drawn from the Court of Appeal, but an appeal aginst sentence is only by way of petition to the Board of the service concerned.

In the case of Mr Elliot, who is married with two children, leave to go to the Courts-Martial Appeal Court was refused. He said: "I don't think I had a fair trial. There was no corroboration — no evidence really of any kind to prove the charges — just one person's word against another. The trial was sham."

He denies using threatening behaviour during an incident in a pub when he was on duty in Germany. "I was found guilty, lost my job, my pension, my career, everything, and then spent nine months in prison, part of it in civilian establishments.

"I know a bit about the workings of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act from my job as an RAF policeman, and the way I was convicted just would not be possible in civilian life."

Among the other cases are an RAF squadron leader dismissed with a conviction for shoplifting; an RAF corporal convicted of false accounting and dismissed; a signalman in the Army convicted of maliciously wounding another soldier in Cyprus and dismissed; and an RAF corporal convicted of forgery and dismissed. Two cases are pending against the Navy.

Blair vows to renationalise the railways

By Arthur Leathley and Philip Bassett

TONY BLAIR pledged yesterday that Labour will return the railways to public ownership as he began a high-profile campaign to win support for his proposals to rewrite Clause Four of the party's constitution.

John Prescott, the deputy leader, will head a working party on rail ownership. "The aim is clear: to ensure a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway," Mr Prescott said yesterday.

Labour's move was calculated to defuse the internal dispute over the party's commitment to reversing privatisation. Mr Blair refused last week to explain what action a future Labour government would take to return the rail network to the public sector.

Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary seized on what he saw as confusion over Labour's rail policy, saying that the Opposition had not come clean.

"Just what is Labour's policy?" Dr Mawhinney asked. "There are two simple questions for Mr Blair: do you intend to renationalise the railways? Yes or no. And if you do intend to renationalise, how do you intend to fulfil your commitment to reverse the decline in railway use?"

Mr Blair's refusal to comment on Labour's post-privatisation plans had sparked fears among some activists that the party would not keep its earlier promise to renationalise the railways. Roy Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, warned Mr Blair in an article in yesterday's *Observer* against "policy prevarication", saying that the party was in "urgent need of positive policies".

Yesterday it was announced that Mr Prescott, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, and Michael Meacher, Shadow Transport Secretary, would consider the options for public ownership, including buying a majority stake in the privatised network.

Labour believes that, by making a firm commitment to return the railways to public ownership, it will undermine the Government's privatisation plans by deterring would-be franchisees from bidding for contracts. Mr Prescott said: "First and foremost, we are determined to stop this privatisation just as we did the Post Office, because we know what it means: fewer trains, higher prices, and the kind of chaos being proposed on through-ticketing."

Although senior Labour figures denied that the move was part of a deal to ensure union backing for changes to Clause Four, leading Tories said that Mr Blair's action "proved that Labour remains in hock to the left". However, John Edmonds, leader of the GMB general union, insisted: "There's no deal. At least, if there's been dealing, I haven't been part of it."

The task of renationalisation would be made easier by the nature of the planned privatisation of the network. Unlike BT, gas, water and electricity, rail is far from dominant in its market, carrying only a small proportion of passenger and freight traffic. Its money-making potential would be less and it would attract fewer investors.

A Labour government might be faced with only a partial privatisation of the network, in which perhaps 51 per cent of Railtrack, the company that runs track and signalling, had been sold. This would considerably reduce the difficulties in finding the money to renationalise.

Yesterday's move comes as Mr Blair begins a high-profile campaign to win party backing for his proposals to rewrite Clause Four. He will start a nationwide tour this week to urge support.

The party is also sending 10-minute videos to more than 630 constituency branches, explaining the reasons behind the Clause Four proposals.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Prescott: to head group on railway ownership

Ulster Unionists may vote against Major

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

ANGLO-IRISH talks on the future of Northern Ireland will resume this week after Ulster Unionists warned John Major that they may withdraw their support for the Government's peace initiative.

John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist MP for Strangford, said he would be prepared to trigger an election if the Government proposed All Ireland bodies with executive powers in the forthcoming Anglo-Irish framework document.

David Trimble, UUP MP for Upper Bann, said his party would be on a "collision course" with the Government if cross-border bodies were introduced by Westminster rather than by a Northern Ireland assembly.

He said: "The Government knows very clearly that we will not have a situation where any body for co-operation draws its authority from somewhere other than a Northern Ireland legislature." Mr Trimble said that Labour's policy was evolving towards a more welcome position.

Mayhew talks, page 2

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MARC ASPLAND

Evelyn Farrowby, the lay reader who opened the Tweseldown meeting with a short service, talks to a bookmaker

Historic horse race marred by death

By John Young

BRITAIN'S first Sunday horse-racing meeting with legal on-course betting was marred yesterday by the deaths of a bookmaker from a suspected heart attack and of a horse which fell at the first fence.

Leslie "Pip" Simms, 82, of Winnersh, Berks, a bookmaker for 60 years, collapsed at his pitch. A doctor was present, but Mr Simms was almost immediately pronounced dead.

A crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 saw the fatal fall of Sword Field, a chestnut mare, in the first point-to-point race at Tweseldown, in Hampshire. Not Quite White, a six-year-old grey gelding ridden by Tim McCarthy, 24, an amateur, went on to win.

The organisers, Garth and South Berkshire hunt committee, decided it would be "appropriate to start the proceedings with an act of worship". This was conducted by Evelyn Farrowby, a lay reader.

Racing, page 35

Potholers die in cave flood

Two potholers died and a third was missing last night after they were swept away by floodwater in the Marble Arch caves in Co Fermanagh. The victims were with a group of ten Dublin students. A team of local potholers found the bodies of the two men. The group had entered the caves from private land at 1 pm at a spot known as Cradle Hole. The caves, which were opened to the public in 1985, are a popular local attraction.

Police raid law firm's offices

Police raided the offices of one of the country's biggest criminal law firms, Robinson's, whose headquarters is in Gloucester, after allegations of irregularities over legal aid .... Page 3

Opera founder dies

Sir Alexander Gibson, CBE, founder of Scottish Opera and its long-time artistic and musical director, has died in hospital after a heart attack. He was 68 .... Page 21

Prince suspends valet over photos

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales' valet was suspended yesterday after his disclosure to a Sunday newspaper of alleged intimate details and photographs of his master's relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that Ken Stronach, 50, had been suspended on full pay while senior officials and police conducted an investigation into his sale to the *News of the World*, for an undisclosed sum, of a lengthy account of the Prince's affair. Mr Stronach indicated to the newspaper that he was on the verge of leaving his job because he considered his employer a hypocrite.

Palace officials are particularly concerned at the security implications of a photograph, said to have been taken by Mr Stronach in the Prince's private quarters at Highgrove, showing a framed picture of Mrs Parker Bowles on his bedside table.

It shows Mrs Parker Bowles sitting on a garden bench outside the front door of Birkhall, a country house owned by the royal family on the edge of the Balmoral estate in Aberdeenshire. The newspaper claimed that a boy visible through a downstairs window was Prince William, but the Palace claimed yesterday that it was in fact Mrs Parker Bowles' son Tom, whose godfather is the Prince of Wales.

Mr Stronach was told of his suspension over the weekend at Birkhall, where he had travelled on Friday with the Prince. Mrs Parker Bowles was reported to have spent the weekend with her friend Patti Palmer-Tomkinson, a former skiing companion of the Prince, in Hampshire.

The former Royal Marine is the Prince's closest personal servant; he has worked for the Wales household for 16 years, and before that was a valet for Lord Mountbatten. Among

Continued on page 3, col 5

Security breach, page 3

Naked truth revealed about Ivy League photos

From James Bone in New York

THOUSANDS of members of America's Establishment learned with horror yesterday that they had been tricked into posing naked while at university for a now-discredited eugenics experiment, and that the nude photographs still exist.

Hillary Clinton and George Bush were among those photographed in a strange rite of passage known as "posture photos" when they entered the exclusive colleges in the Forties, Fifties and Sixties. Ivy League schools such as Harvard and Yale and their women's counterparts, the "Seven Sisters", required new students to be photographed nude in front, side and rear poses for scientific purposes.

For decades, the bizarre ritual was kept secret by the Ivy League graduates; the possibilities for blackmail or ridicule were just too great.

Then, in 1992, Naomi Wolf, author of *The Beauty Myth*, made a passing reference in an article to a joke about the "posture photos" at her graduation ceremony at Yale in 1984.

The article prompted a letter to the paper by George Hersey, a professor of art history at Yale, which set off a three-year hunt for any remaining pictures. He disclosed that they had been taken at the behest of two American eugenicists named E. A. Hooton and W. H. Sheldon, who directed Columbia University institute for physique studies.

Ron Rosenbaum, a journalist photographed when he arrived at Yale in the mid-1960s, began to investigate. Publishing his findings in yesterday's *New York Times* magazine, Mr Rosenbaum said he had tracked down one of Mr Sheldon's former collaborators who had led him to a treasure trove of nude photographs.

Although some of the photographs locked in a branch of the Smithsonian museum in Washington have been burned since the practice was abandoned in the late 1960s, the archive has 20,000 photographs of men, including 9,000 from Yale, and 7,000 of women.

Mrs Clinton could take some solace from the fact that by the time she arrived at Wellesley, it allowed women to be photographed only partially nude.

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MACMILLAN

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Nolan starts scrutiny of public standards

■ Former Prime Ministers, historians and members of the public will take part in the inquiry into the ethics of holding office. Michael Dynes reports

Nolan: wants to hear range of strong views

UP TO 90 witnesses will be called to give evidence to Lord Nolan's public *hearings into standards in public* life that begin tomorrow.

Ivor Crewe, Professor of Politics at Essex University; Lord Blake, Conservative Party historian, and Roy *Hattersley, MP, will be the first to* give evidence in what promises to be the most penetrating inquiry into the ethics of holding public office since the Poulson corruption scandal in *the 1970s. The hearings will take* place between 10am and 1pm at Westminster Central Hall, London, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the next six weeks.

Since the inquiry was established by John Major in October, in response to the Commons' "cash-for-questions" affair, the Nolan Committee has received more than 1,500 *submissions from* lawyers *and* lobbyists, MPs and trade unionists, local authorities and individuals.

The committee's first report is expected to be published in May. It will concentrate on MPs' financial interests and lobbying; the rules governing the conduct of ministers and civil servants; appointments to *public* bodies such as National Health Service Trusts, and the House of Lords.

Lord Nolan, a law lord, wants to hear a wide range of "strong views" *on every aspect of the ethics of* holding public office. "All views need to be rigorously tested. The public needs to be exposed to these conflicting views," the inquiry *spokesman said. "Should MPs be* able to advise only outside interest groups or organisations or should they be allowed to act as their advocates as well? Should MPs be *free to* have *interests outside* Parliament so long as they are registered or should the register of MPs' interests be tightened up? All of these propositions need to be tested," he added.

Dame Angela Rumbold, Conservative MP for Mitcham, and a vice-chairwoman of the Tory Party, will give evidence on the second day of the inquiry. She resigned her position as board member of Decision Makers, a parliamentary lobbying organisation, when it was revealed *that she had used her position to* lobby for the Channel Tunnel rail link's intermediate station to be situated at Ebbsfleet in Essex. Although Dame Angela did not break *any rules, she* will be asked *to* explain why she felt it necessary to resign. Tony Newton, the Leader of the House of Commons, will be asked to give evidence on the conduct of MPs. He will be asked about the role of parliamentary lobbyists and the "cash-for-questions" affair, which led to the resignations of Conservative MPs Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff will also be asked to give evidence about public ethics in the period before the 1979 general election, when he was Prime Minister. Witnesses will be asked about the propriety of ministers and civil servants accepting gifts, possible conflicts of interest, and employment in the private sector after leaving public office. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, will be asked to give evidence. But Baroness Thatcher and John Major will probably not be called.

The *inquiry will* pay particular attention to the issue of appointments to non-elected public office, including the big spending quangos, and the National Health Service Trusts. The committee's decision to look at health reflects the growing criticism over the appointment of leading Conservatives to the boards of NHS Trusts, and their level of remuneration. The committee will examine practice overseas, especially the recent initiatives to regulate abuse of public office in France, the United States, Ireland and Australia. But it will not address itself to local government, universities, and the honours system until after the first report has been completed.

Cabinet Euro-sceptic hopes to bring Conservative rebels back on board

Portillo urges Major to curb Brussels power

By Arthur Leathley and Jonathan Prynn

Portillo during yesterday's interview

MICHAEL PORTILLO urged the Prime Minister yesterday to mount a hardline campaign to curb the power of the European Union as part of a strategy to re-unite the Conservative Party.

Mr Portillo, the Employment Secretary and Cabinet standard-bearer of Tory Eurosceptics, told BBC1's *On the Record* that Mr Major's promises to resist EU constitutional changes and to block early *moves towards a single* currency had led to a "turning point" in the party's mood. As the Prime Minister stepped up his attempts to heal back*bench rifts, Mr Portillo* pressed him to bring Euro-rebels back into the party and to set out a positive vision in protecting British interests.

Mr Portillo said: "It would be a great mistake if we were made to look defensive. I think the Prime Minister will want to develop his thinking about the future of Europe over the next year."

Mr Major is to propose measures to reduce the powers of the European Commission and the European Court of Justice. He has asked Cabinet ministers to draw up changes which he will push for at this summer's meeting of EU leaders. The June meeting will lay *the foundations for the EU intergovernmental conference* in 1996.

Yesterday Mr Major invited senior backbenchers to Chequers, to emphasise that the party must rally to fight back against Labour.

Mr Major made clear last week that he would oppose plans for a single currency and would resist any moves which would impose constitutional change on Britain. Mr Portillo said yesterday: "He has adopted an agenda which fits in the majority of the party."

"I think the conditions for re-uniting the Conservative party are now in place. I am much more encouraged. The *Prime Minister has also been* quite generous in his remarks about the rebels. There is now a window of opportunity for pulling the party back together and getting the rebels back on board."

Mr Major's attempts to bring the rebels back into the parliamentary party may be hampered this week if the MPs refuse to back the Government in a Commons vote on the fishing industry. Labour will press the nine "whipless" Tory Euro-rebels to support a motion criticising the Government's failure to pre*vent Spanish trawers fishing* in British and Irish waters.

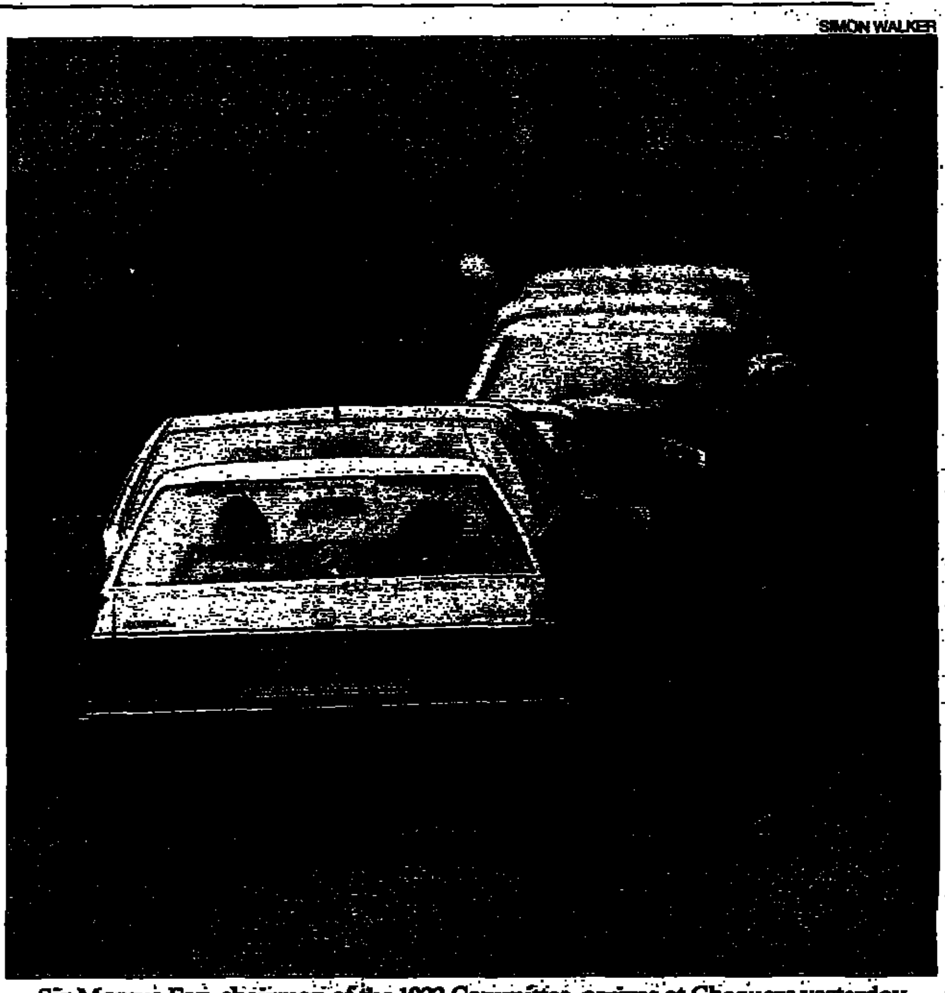
The rebels threatened yesterday to abstain from Wednesday's vote in protest at *Britain's inability to prevent* EU law changes which they claim will jeopardise the livelihoods of UK fishermen.

They will decide tomorrow whether to team up against the Government with Tory MPs from fishing constituencies who were angered by the failure of William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, to secure greater protection for British fishermen. Labour is also pressing Northern Ireland MPs, several of whom represent fishing communities, to back the motion.

Robert Hicks, Tory MP for Cornwall South East, said he was "very annoyed" with the Government over Mr Waldegrave's performance at the Brussels fishing council last month and would be "surprised" if he supported the Government in Wednesday's vote. John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip & Northwood and one of the Euro-rebels, said that he was unlikely to back the Labour motion but regarded Mr Waldegrave's performance as "unutterably feeble".

Diary, page 18

SIMON WALKER


Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, arrives at Chequers yesterday for the Prime Minister's lunch with senior Conservative backbenchers

Unionists threaten to break up Ulster talks

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

SIR Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will this week resume talks with Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, *on the forthcoming* Anglo-Irish framework document amid warnings from the Ulster Unionists that they may withdraw support for the Government's peace initiative.

Leading Unionists said yesterday that they would be prepared to trigger an election if the Government proposed all-Ireland bodies with executive powers. The Government has insisted that the document will not propose joint authority, but John Taylor, the Unionist MP for Strangford, said he was wary of such a commitment.

He said: "In recent months the Government has said there will be no joint authority or joint sovereignty, and suddenly we hear rumours about cross-border bodies. If these turn out to be true the Government will have stabbed us in the back."

Sir Patrick tried to reassure Unionists last week that a settlement would not be imposed on the Province when he said that the Government was not compiling a "private blueprint for joint authority over Northern Ireland".

Another leading Unionist has said that the IRA ceasefire will not hold. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said that members of the IRA in East Tyrone and South Armagh wanted to resume their violent campaign.

Blair gets red card for attack on United

By Jonathan Prynn
Political Reporter

MANCHESTER UNITED accused Tony Blair, the Labour leader, of being out of touch with football fans yes*terday after the Labour* leader attacked last week's record £7 million transfer of Andy Cole from Newcastle United.

Mr Blair, one of whose sons is an ardent Manchester United fan, said he had been saddened by the purchase, which was symbolic of the ever increasing commercial exploitation of the game. Writing in a Sunday newspaper he said: "I worry that a game in which one individual is deemed to be worth £7 million and whose club must raise the money with ever more lucrative and exclusive TV deals, merchandising, and expensive seats, is a game which may lose touch with its roots."

Later, in a speech at the Savoy hotel in London marking Sir Stanley Matthews's 80th birthday, the Labour leader, a Newcastle supporter, also criticised Manchester United for its frequent changes of official strip.

His criticisms received a frosty response from club officials. "Maybe he is upset that Cole's name has been in the news more than his over the past week," one Old Trafford executive said.

A spokesman for the club argued that it was effectively "spending for Britain" as the purchase of the striker would enable it to win trophies in European competitions.

Football, pages 23, 25-27

Booby-trap packets sent to Waldegrave

Scotland Yard is investigating two packages booby-trapped with razor blades sent to Willam Waldergrave, the Agriculture Minister, at his London office. Threatening letters have also been sent to his Somerset farmhouse since the disclosure that calves from the farm may have been kept in European veal crates.

About 100 animal rights protesters staged a demonstration against the veal trade yesterday at the farm, watched by a dozen police officers. They dispersed once they learnt that Mr Waldegrave was away. There were no arrests.

133 share jackpot draw

The National Lottery jackpot of more than £16 million from Saturday's draw is to be shared between 133 winners who all guessed the six numbers correctly. Each will receive £122,510. There were more than two million winners overall from ticket sales of £70 million. Winning numbers, page 22

Crackdown on fumes

Local authorities will be given new powers to monitor airborne pollution and crack down on traffic fumes when the Government's long-awaited strategy for cutting air pollution is unveiled on Thursday. It will emphasise the role of planning in reducing car and lorry usage.

Airship pilot rescued

The pilot of an airship was rescued last night after he *ditched in* The Wash. The Virgin airship, which was advertising a make of car, went out of control after taking off from Cardington, Bedfordshire. The pilot jumped into the sea and was picked up by a pilot boat.

Clydebank hospital aid

The Abu Dhabi Investment Co. which is in talks with the receivers to take over HCI Hospital in Clydebank, can expect up to £4.4 million in regional aid, according to a leaked Scottish Office letter. The private hospital's collapse cost the public purse £30 million, critics claim.

Red Cross celebration

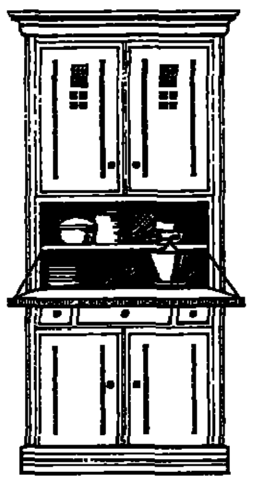
The British Red Cross launched its 125th birthday celebrations at Highbury in north London before Arsenal's Premiership match with Everton on Saturday, in a ceremony that was repeated at hundreds of football grounds across the country ***Leading article, page 19***

Opera founder dies

The conductor Sir Alexander Gibson, founder and former music director of the Scottish Opera Company, has died aged 68. Sir Alexander was also music director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra from 1959 to 1984, then became its honorary president. Obituary, page 21

Drake salvage appeal

A group planning to raise the body of Sir Francis Drake *400 years after he was buried at sea off Panama and return* it to Britain are hoping public opinion will help to overturn official disapproval. Sir David Nicholas, the former chairman of [illegible] who heads the group, says Drake should lie in state and be properly honoured in his own country.



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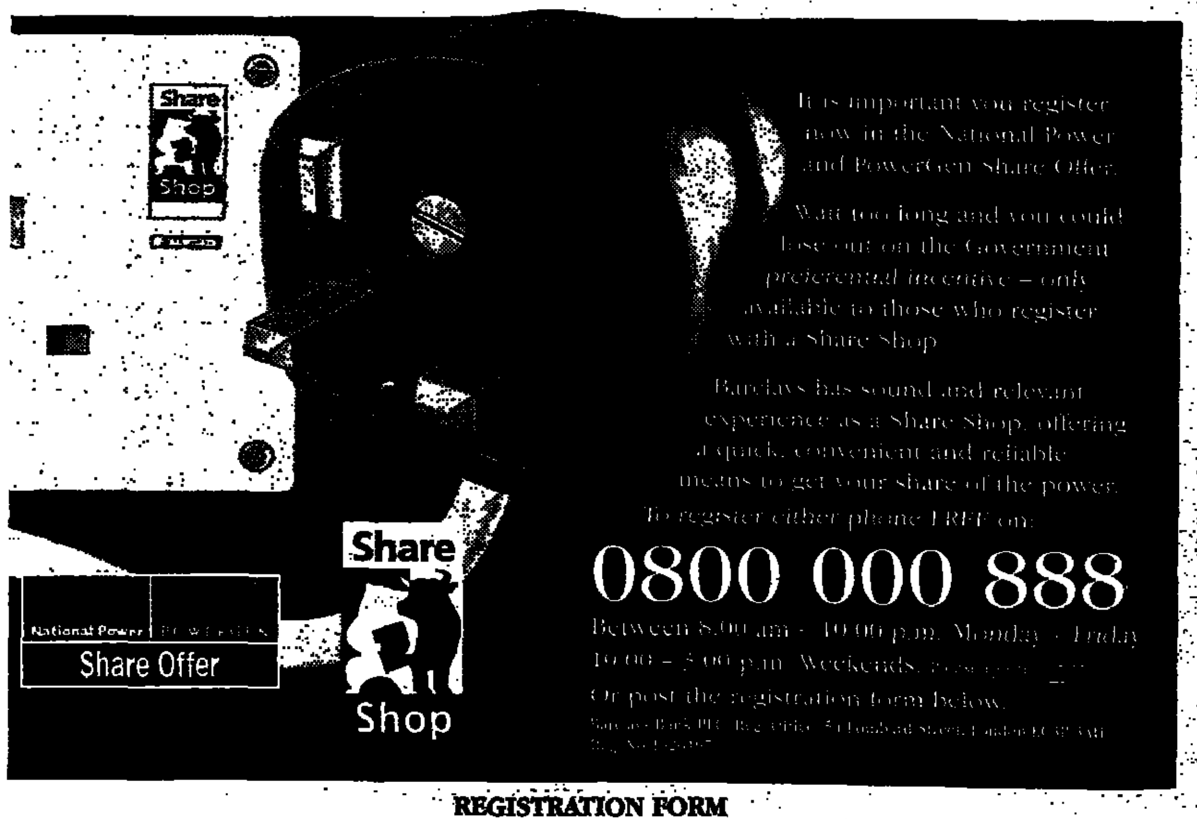

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Below-stairs royal revelations at a premium after divorce announcement

Trusted insider who was privy to Prince's most intimate secrets

By Alan Hamilton

ROYAL security has once again been breached, not by a malicious republican gunman or an unhinged intruder, but by a trusted insider. Modest wages and a ready market merge into a powerful temptation for palace servants to approach the tabloid press.

Ken Stronach was until yesterday the Prince of Wales's valet and therefore privy to his master's most intimate secrets.

In the present climate, his master's secrets are a valuable currency that can be traded profitably at the doors of the popular press. In the wake of last week's announcement that Camilla Parker Bowles and her husband are to divorce, any below-stairs revelations on royal romance were clearly at an absolute premium.

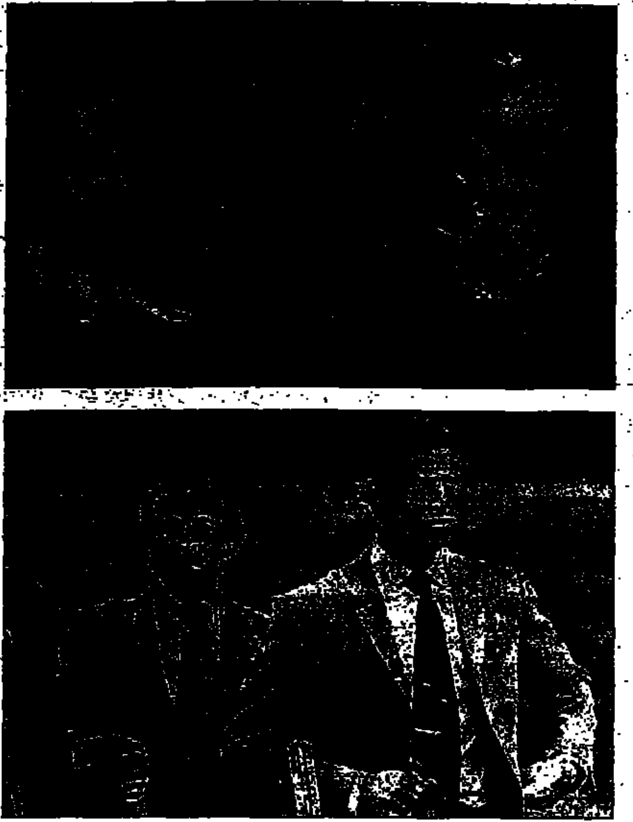
The 50-year-old Mr Stronach, a twice-married former Royal Marine, went to work for Earl Mountbatten shortly before the Prince of Wales's beloved great-uncle was blown up by IRA terrorists in 1979.

The Prince, then unmarried, inherited Mr Stronach, who worked for both the Prince and Princess during their earlier, happier married life together. His job entailed looking after the Prince's wardrobe and travel arrangements.

After 16 years' service in the Prince's household, he finally sold his story to the *News Of The World*, claiming that his employer was a hypocrite and that he could no longer stand the strain of keeping royal secrets while his master felt free to go on television and confess adultery.

On the question of hypocrisy, Mr Stronach can hardly have been blameless. On Friday he travelled to Scotland with the Prince, presumably giving no hint to his employer that he had spent four hours in the Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow with *News Of The World* reporters, telling of royal bed arrangements and handing over a photograph of the Prince's bedside table, on which stands a framed picture of Mrs Parker Bowles.

Mr Stronach, almost anticipating action against him, was reported to say he felt "let down" by the Prince after the broadcast of Jonathan Dimbleby's documentary last year.



Marion Crawford, top, and Stephen Barry, below, former royal employees who decided to publish

"All through my time with him we've all been told not to speak to anyone about everything. We've all kept his secrets and the strain made me very ill. Then he does a TV show and book telling the world what we spent years hiding. Everything he told us to do was a lie. I feel let down," he said.

The valet said that he felt so badly used by Prince Charles that he was willing to give up everything. "I'll be losing my home, my car, my job. My whole life," he said.

Earl Mountbatten: employed Stronach

Yesterday morning, when the *News Of The World* hit the nation's breakfast tables, Mr Stronach was said to have left the Balmoral estate; his employer was seen attending morning service at Crathie church looking distinctly disgruntled.

At the same time Buckingham Palace announced that Mr Stronach had been suspended on full pay pending an investigation. He cannot have gone to the newspaper without knowing that the disclosures would almost certainly cost him his job.

What can the Palace do about him? It can certainly dismiss him, as he has breached the clause in the contract of employment that all Royal Household staff now have to sign, which forbids them ever to discuss private matters they have have gleaned while working for the Royal Family.

Beyond that, criminal prosecution seems unlikely, although police are concerned at the security implications of his being able to take a photograph of the Prince's private quarters and have it published in the largest-selling newspaper in Britain.

Had the Palace had prior knowledge of the disclosures, it might well have sought an injunction preventing publication, claiming the defence of security.

There may yet be an approach to the Press Complaints Commission on the ground of intrusion of privacy, a sensitive topic on which the newspaper industry, faced with the threat of legislation, has argued for self-policing.

Mr Stronach is the latest in a long line of royal servants who have chosen to spill the beans. The trend was begun by Marion Crawford, a former nanny to the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, who published *The Little Princesses*, a book so anodyne and syrupy that it made Enid Blyton seem raunchy; she was nevertheless cast into outer darkness by her former employers, and died in poverty and disgrace.

Stephen Barry, another former valet who served the Prince in his later bachelor years, published a book of disclosures after he had left royal employment — made redundant, he claimed, by the arrival of the Princess of Wales. Barry's book appeared in the United States but a palace injunction has prevented it ever being published here. Barry subsequently died of an Aids-related illness.

Another royal servant achieved notoriety when she took private letters from the Princess Royal's briefcase and gave the outside world the first confirmation of the Princess's relationship with Commander Timothy Laurence, to whom she is now married.

The most usual form of attack by Buckingham Palace in the case of leaks and disclosures is to claim breach of copyright, as when newspapers published a group family photograph showing the Duchess of York's two young children with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, and when *The Sun* published in advance the text of the Queen's Christmas broadcast.

Both were settled out of court, with substantial donations being given to charity.

Valet suspended, page 1

GLENN HARVEY

Ken Stronach with the Prince of Wales at a polo match in Windsor in 1987. Mr Stronach claimed he could no longer stand the strain of keeping royal secrets

Royal valet suspended

Continued from page 1

seven pages of below-stairs disclosure, Mr Stronach alleged a number of secret meetings between the prince and Mrs Parker Bowles at Highgrove, some of them while the Princess of Wales was in residence.

He claimed to have washed grass stains from the prince's pyjamas after illicit meetings in the undergrowth. Mr Stronach told the *News of the World* that he had felt let down by the prince's confession of adultery in a television documentary in June, after he and other staff had been sworn to secrecy.

Mr Stronach admitted to the newspaper that the disclosures would almost certainly cost him his £12,000 a year job, and the Vauxhall Omega car that went with it.

In common with other royal employees, Mr Stronach signed an employment contract containing a clause forbidding him to reveal any details of the personal lives of those he worked for. Palace officials are torn between anger and despair at the latest disclosures, which can only undermine their best efforts to preserve the prince's public image.

Photographs have also caused trouble for the Princess of Wales. Next month the High Court will hear her breach-of-contract case against Mirror Group Newspapers and Bryce Taylor, owner of the health club she regularly attends, after the publication in the *Sunday Mirror* of photographs of her exercising in the gym.

Lawyers' offices raided in fraud inquiry

By Lin Jenkins

A SERIES of police raids was carried out yesterday as part of a fraud investigation into one of the country's biggest criminal law firms. The operation was thought to follow allegations of legal aid irregularities.

Files and papers were seized from the headquarters of Robinson's in Gloucester. Other premises were also raided by officers in Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire.

The home of a senior partner, Timothy Robinson, at Badgeworth near Cheltenham, was searched during the operation conducted by the Serious Fraud Office. Mr Robinson said: "At 8 o'clock this morning, police and officials of the SFO executed warrants to search for and seize documents from the offices of my firm and some of its staff.

"As senior partner, I can say we are co-operating fully. I support efforts being made by the authorities to prevent abuse of the Legal Aid Fund. It is possible the investigation has arisen as a result of malicious allegations made by a former employee who was dismissed by this firm.

"While this has all the hallmarks of a fishing expedition, we have total confidence that the firm will be given a clean bill of health. We are one of the few firms in the country which takes in-house precautions to prevent fraud on the authorities from occurring."

Mr Robinson said that a Liverpool law practice had recently received similar attention. He said that he had not yet been questioned and that the police had confined themselves to searching for documents. Police had also called on the homes of some, but not all of his three partners. "There seems to be no rhyme nor reason to it," he said.

The Serious Fraud Office said in a statement: "Officers from the Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire forces in conjunction with the Serious Fraud Office executed warrants to search a number of office and residential premises in connection with an ongoing investigation into alleged fraud. The investigation is continuing."

Legal executives from Mr Robinson's firm support solicitors in magistrates courts, instruct barristers at the Crown Court and are on round-the-clock call to attend police stations when clients are arrested.

Almost 800 solicitors' firms in England and Wales are having their books inspected after record levels of alleged fraud were uncovered. Estimates put the amount overcharged to the Legal Aid Fund at £8 million. The investigation is being conducted by the Serious Fraud Office, the Legal Aid Board and the Solicitors Complaints Bureau.

The bureau has taken over the operation of four legal firms following inquiries. One in seven firms is to be examined by their team of accountants in an effort to stamp out malpractice and breaches of account rules.

Much of the alleged fraud concerns non-criminal work under the legal aid "green form" scheme where solicitors give advice in areas such as welfare law, housing, immigration and employment. As many as 175 solicitors are expected to end up before the solicitors' diciplinary tribunal as the profession faces unprecedented levels of supervision and scrutiny.

Former rugby star fails breath test after crash

By Lin Jenkins

WADE DOOLEY, the former England rugby union international and policeman, was arrested by officers from his own force after a crash in which a 14-year-old girl was seriously injured.

PC Dooley, 36, was driving home to Weeton, Lancashire, after a rugby match when his car hit the girl in nearby Kirkham just after 10pm on Saturday. He failed a breath test.

PC Dooley, who retired from international rugby last year as England's most capped lock forward, was returning from Birmingham in his Land Rover Discovery after a league match with his club, Preston Grasshoppers, when the accident occurred. Colleagues said yesterday that he was "distraught and shattered" after the incident.

"After all, he did not know whether the girl was dead or alive," one said. They said he had told investigating officers that the girl appeared to dash across the road into the path of his vehicle.

The girl, who suffered abdominal injuries, was said to be "stable" in Royal Preston Hospital yesterday.

A spokesman for the Lancashire force, where PC Dooley works as a community policeman in Blackpool, said the matter was being dealt with under the Road Traffic Provisions Act. He said PC Dooley had not been charged or suspended. A file will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service when a full investigation into the accident has been completed.

PC Dooley, who is 6ft 8in, earned the nickname "Blackpool Tower" during his international career. He was capped 55 times by England and helped the team to win consecutive grand slams. He has continued to play for his force side since his retirement from the national team and was persuaded only a fortnight ago to rejoin the Preston team to help with their promotion battle.

Two years ago PC Dooley, who is married to a policewoman and has two children, was a passenger in a minibus that crashed on a police trip to the Lake District. The driver was convicted of drink-driving.

War-game tanks hit an obstacle

By A Staff Reporter

LORD Harlech has angered villagers with a plan to allow part of his estate in Shropshire to be used as a mock battleground for business executives playing war games in 55-ton Chieftain tanks.

The scheme, which is currently before Oswestry Borough Council planning committee, has been proposed by two Manchester-based businessmen who want to rent parts of the 110-acre land surrounding the 18th-century Brogyntyn Hall, which is listed Grade II.

Lord Harlech, who is anxious to raise revenue to maintain the hall and its workforce, is backing the proposal to use six Chieftain tanks, one eight-ton Scorpion and half-a-dozen smaller vehicles for the five-day residential courses.

But the plans have met with a barrage of opposition from locals. Lawrence Garner, chairman of the Oswestry and District Civic Society, said the idea was "as destructive as it is ridiculous".

He said: "A couple of Manchester promoters are proposing to rent a large part of the land from Lord Harlech to hold these War Games breaks. They want to convert a set of farm buildings into a training centre and the tank routes will fan out from there into the woodland and across most of the park.

"The armoured tracks will run mainly out across agricultural pasture, but two of the routes come within 50 yards of the hall itself. It is a crying shame because the area is a very attractive piece of landscaped parkland and these tanks will just gouge tracks all over it.

"Not only is there a real danger to the public as three of the routes cross a footpath, but we are concerned about the future of the magnificent building. In recent years the hall has been left to crumble because of a lack of tenant. Lord Harlech can't find anybody to take on the upkeep of the place. Once these crazy tanks start charging across their back garden it is hardly likely that anybody will want to move in."

Harlech: anxious for cash to run estate

Imelda Havers, 35, leader of the local residents' opposition group, said: "Brogyntyn Hall is a very special place and is in the hearts of the Oswestry locals, feelings are running very strong. We have called on the Department of the Environment and English Heritage and stop this plan before it gains any momentum."

Lord Harlech was unavailable for comment yesterday. Lady Harlech said: "We are far too busy to talk to the Press."

Environmentalists have said that a vulnerable stock of lime and beech trees could be wiped out if the tanks roll across the estate.

A spokesman for Oswestry Borough Council said councillors would consider the application in the next six weeks.

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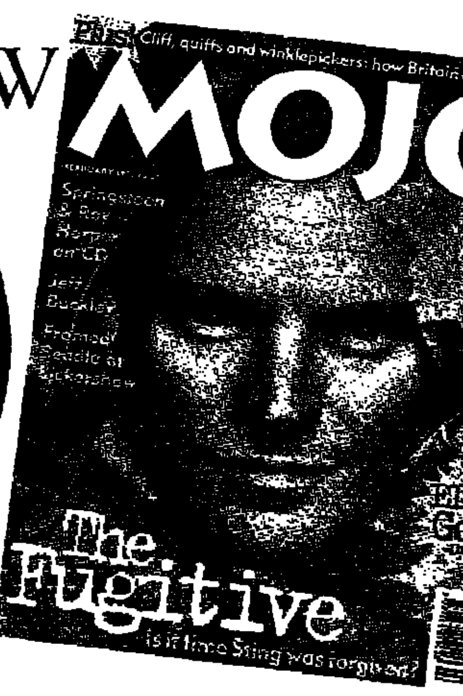

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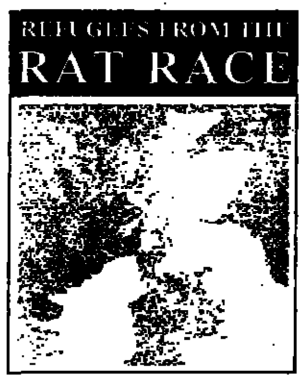
With computers and fax machines, newcomers are helping to reverse decline on the Celtic fringe

Hi-tech aids turn island dream into economic reality

■ An electronic superhighway has replaced the age-old Road to the Isles for families seeking to leave behind city stress, Alan Hamilton and Ian Murray write



THERE is a powerful romance about islands seen from afar. They shimmer on horizons and sing their siren song of a life cleansed of crowds, crime, and the rat race. They promise simplicity and fulfilment.

The reality can be very different. Jobs may be few, the earth unyielding, the sea treacherous, and the indigenous population wary of incomers who threaten the community's balance.

For decades, the Western Isles of Scotland have suffered depopulation and decline, most graphically demonstrated in 1930 when the remaining population of 30 on St Kilda, the remotest British isle of all, petitioned the Government to be evacuated to the mainland when disease and a lack of able-bodied men rendered their existence untenable. In more recent times the young of the Hebrides have sailed to the mainland for further education; many have never returned.

Since the Highland clearances in Scotland and the potato famines in Ireland, the far Celtic fringes of the British Isles have been forced to scratch a barely sustainable living from uneconomic crofts; latterly, only government subsidy has made possible their way of life.

Earlier well-meaning attempts to revitalise the Western Isles have foundered on the rock of islanders' resistance to mainland ways. Between the wars, Lord Leverhulme built the Lewismen a fine fishing harbour and called it Leverburgh; he invited them to join him in large-scale commercial fishing, and created Mac Fisheries to sell the harvest of The Minch. But the Lewismen sent him packing; they were their own men, and would have none of fish factories or set working hours.

But now, after so many sad years of decline, the population of the Western Isles is stabilising, the emigrants replaced by incomers from the British mainland, few of whom are the drop-outs who once came to escape life's responsibilities on the mainland, contributing little to island life.

The new immigrants are energetic and economically active, and they come prepared for the endless howling gales and bare six hours of daylight in winter. They have learnt the vital lesson known to generations of islanders, that the crofter must do more than tend his stony, handkerchief-sized fields to sustain a living. Traditionally, the crofter has supplemented his income with fishing or weaving.

Now there is another option drawing the English to the Hebrides, and to a lesser extent the far west of Ireland: information technology. The croft now has a computer. An electronic superhighway has replaced the Road to the Isles.

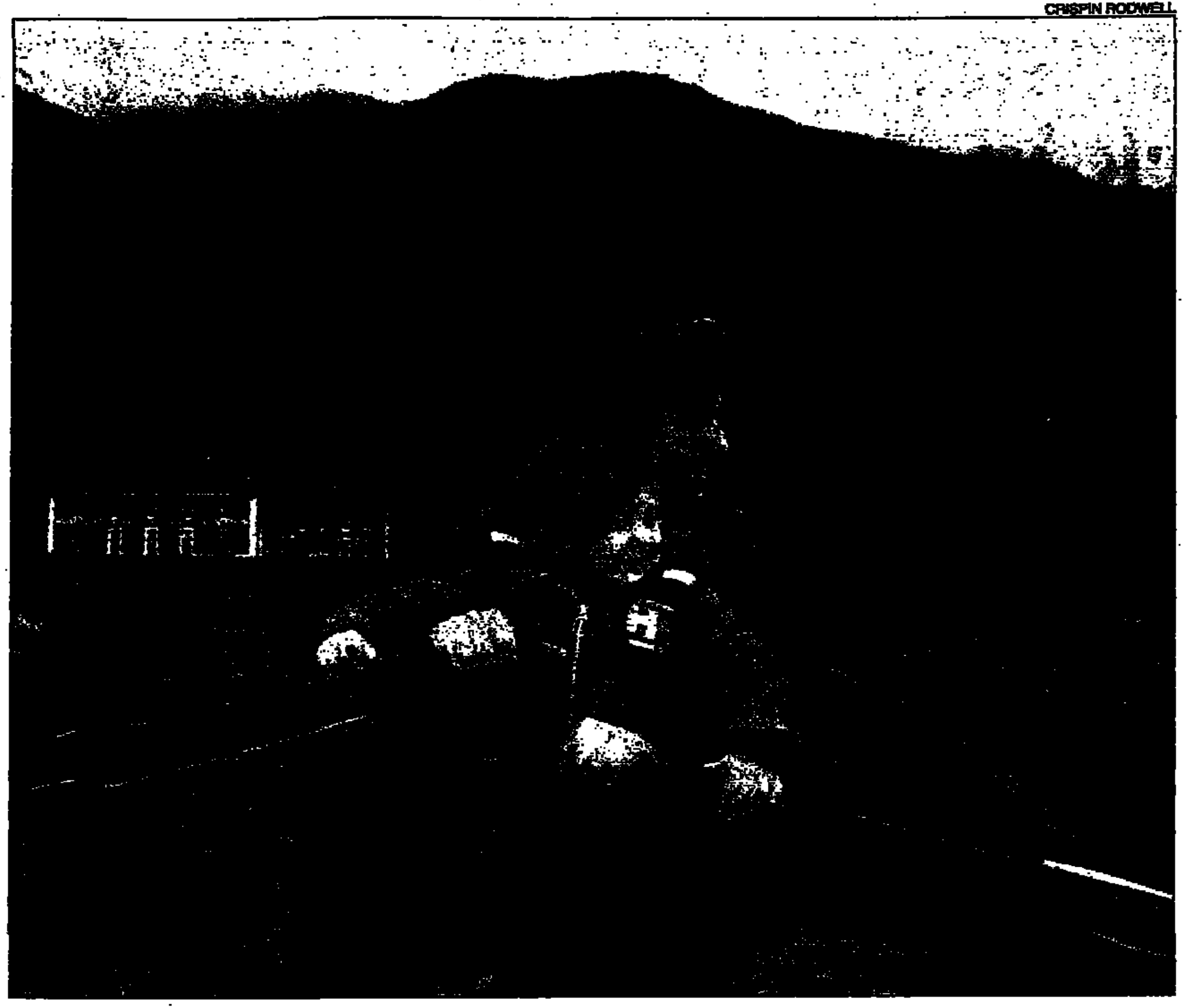
The islands are the first area in Britain to appoint their own information technology officer, and their very remoteness has provided the incentive to pioneer new communications techniques. Isolated "telly-cottages" are linked to business centres worldwide. Translators, copywriters and even temporary secretaries can work for multinational companies throughout the world to supplement the inadequate income of the crofter or fish farmer.

There are other benefits. The Isle of Lewis is creating one of the world's first computer universities, plugged into the worldwide Internet system and about to bring the most modern higher education to some of the remotest communities in Europe.

Crofts in the last century were deliberately made too small to provide a living for their tenants, who were thereby forced to work for the landlords to pad out their incomes. Now the computer terminal is an alternative employer, and the crofts are viable again.

Life can still be difficult, however, and the incomers who do best are those who realise from the outset that to survive, prosper and above all to fit in with the local community, you need several strings to your bow. With sound economic foundations, romance once again has a chance.

CRISPIN RODWELL



Peter Mantle, a former financial journalist from London, helped by his five-year-old daughter Camilla, rows across Finlough to the hotel on which he spent more than £1 million after moving to the west coast of Ireland nine years ago. He is currently involved in spearheading a campaign to save the sea trout industry of Co Mayo, on which his livelihood largely depends. Mr Mantle, 42, believes the fish have been killed off by parasites linked to intensive salmon farming. The failure of the sea trout industry almost ruined the hotelier, whose guests at Delphi Lodge in the Doolough Valley can fish six miles of lakes and rivers. "When the sea trout collapsed in 1990 we were suddenly left with nothing." His difficulties have done nothing to diminish his love for the area, however. "We go back to England decreasingly now." He and his wife Jane have settled in so well that they now regard Camilla, who has recently started at school, as Irish.

Strangers overcome sound of silence

BY NICHOLAS WATT

WHEN Gaye Fox left North Yorkshire for Co Donegal in 1988, she loathed life in Ireland. She missed her family and felt awkward under the silent gaze of locals when she walked into the pub near her cottage in the hamlet of Ballyare, near Rathmelton.

But after a few years she and her husband Adam, who runs a fish farm, settled in. They know they will always be regarded as "blow-ins", but conversation no longer dies when they go for a drink. Mrs Fox, who works in a leather shop in Letterkenny, has been fully converted to Ireland's slower pace of life. She considers Co Donegal an ideal place for bringing up their three children. "The education system is of a very high standard," she says. "My two older girls, who are 16 and 17, have settled in well. It is much safer here, and if they come back at 3am I know they'll be all right."

Their neighbours, Ian and Peggy Smith, moved to Co Donegal from Wales in 1973, and have enjoyed every moment. Mr Smith, 75, attributes their successful move to observing important advice they were given when they arrived. He says: "We were told to keep quiet, not to throw our weight around and to pay all our bills on time."

Making a virtue of remoteness

BY IAN MURRAY

IN THE Victorian fastness of Lews Castle on the outskirts of Stornoway, Mick Roebuck is developing one of the world's first computer campuses.

As principal of the college there for the past three years, he has been building a university along the electronic superhighway, which will bring the most modern higher education to some of the remotest communities in Europe.

Stornoway is home to one of thirteen colleges of the embryonic University of the Highlands and Islands. Just before Christmas it became one of the first to be linked to Internet and before long it will be sending degree courses to "telecottages" on the outer fringes of the Western Isles.

The development is critical in stopping the depopulation of the islands, which send a higher proportion of school-leavers to university than almost anywhere else in Britain. After completing a course on the mainland few return, which means the brightest and best of each generation are missing.

"Some will still want to go off to the mainland," Mr Roebuck, from Huddersfield said, "but with the cut in grants a lot of students just won't be able to afford it.

"We will not just be selling them to islanders but to people who want to follow environmental courses in a place where they can study and experience a remote lifestyle."

The courses available will make a virtue out of remoteness. Students of environmental subjects will be able to link up with their tutors on an interactive multimedia screen in their telecottage or in small learning centres such as the one being set up on Barra. They will then be able to put into practice techniques they have learnt in a way that would be impossible in a city campus.

Survivor's guide to Hebrides

BY IAN MURRAY

FOR Chris Corden, the decision to swap a home in Staines, west London, for life in the Hebrides was easy. "When you see the island looming up in front you say: 'That's home.' It really gets under your skin. But you have got to join in. You can't sit here in isolation or you won't last six months."

He arrived in Lewis seven years ago to take over a derelict fish factory. "My wife and children are very happy here. The schooling is good because the classes are smaller. The children are welcome in every home in the village and we never have to worry about them even if we don't know where they are. We are part of a real community."

He feels he has achieved more at his factory, which makes fish and primrose oil, than he ever could have down in his work in Staines. This year it will double in size.

Happy ending to adventure

WHEN Sharon and Pete Duce paid £600 for a croft at Quidnish on Harris 23 years ago, their friends in Buckinghamshire thought they were mad. There was no electricity or telephone, and the nearest road was a mile away. Mr Duce had been told he ought to find a job in Corby or Invergordon if he wanted a career as a metallurgist.

Mrs Duce, 42, brought up their daughters; Mr Duce, 47, worked on fishing boats and a mobile shop, sold animal feed and fed salmon. He has built a road over the moor. There are no regrets.

Peter and Sharon Duce, who bought a croft on Harris

Weavers bank on pedal power

HARRIS TWEED production is about to be revolutionised by an English loom (Ian Murray writes). The cottage industry, which has seen its order book halved in the past decade, is fighting back using bicycle technology from Washington, Tyne and Wear.

A trial run by nine prototype looms was successfully completed before Christmas. This year the replacement begins of the 450 treadle-powered looms sprinkled in remote cottages throughout the islands of Harris and Lewis.

John Griffiths, who designed the new loom, had to ensure that any breaks with tradition would not compromise Harris Tweed's claim to be made on a hand loom. So he replaced the laborious treadle with a less exhausting bicycle pedal. The new loom also produces cloth twice the width of the old ones, which at 2ft 6in was too narrow for the modern clothing industry and its computerised cutters.

Complicated negotiations over how much weavers will be paid for cloth produced on the new looms are being led by Ken Bartolomy, 51, who left his job as a banker in London 12 years ago to settle on the croft belonging to the family of his wife Katie near Tarbert on Harris. The new looms are expected to produce 30 per cent more cloth in a working day and, as secretary of the weavers' association, he has to negotiate a pay rate that takes this into account without making the cost prohibitive.

The new looms cost £13,000 each and, although weavers are being given a 70 per cent grant, they will have to find about £4,000 each for the new equipment.

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Human rights lawyer adds to club resignations over 'absurd, antediluvian' policy

Lord Lester quits Garrick in protest at bar on women

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

ONE of the most eminent members of the legal profession, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, has resigned from the Garrick Club in protest over its refusal to admit women.

Lord Lester, a Liberal Democrat who has been a member of the club since the late 1960s, decided in the summer to leave the club with effect from last month after, he says, "it became clear that members of the Garrick are implacably hostile to female membership". He told *The Times*: "It is absurd, unjust and antediluvian that a social club for distinguished writers, actors and lawyers should be closed to such people as Baroness [P.D.] James, Dame Joan Plowright and Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss."

The resignation of Lord Lester, the country's leading lawyer in the field of human rights and equality, coincides with a number of resignations from clubs that are regarded as bastions of male chauvinism. Last week the eminent psephologist David Butler, fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, resigned from the Oxford and Cambridge University Club after 43 years in protest at its exclusion of women from facilities such as the library.

Yesterday, it was also reported that more than 50 members have resigned this month from the Carlton Club, where women and non-Conservative voters are barred from joining. In many cases the resignations are over subscription rates (full membership is £625 a year, with a lower rate for Conservative MPs) rather than entrance policy.

Earlier this year, Peter Carter-Ruck, the celebrated libel lawyer, also resigned from the club. The Oxford and Cambridge could be faced with legal challenge after college principals failed to force it to grant full membership to women.

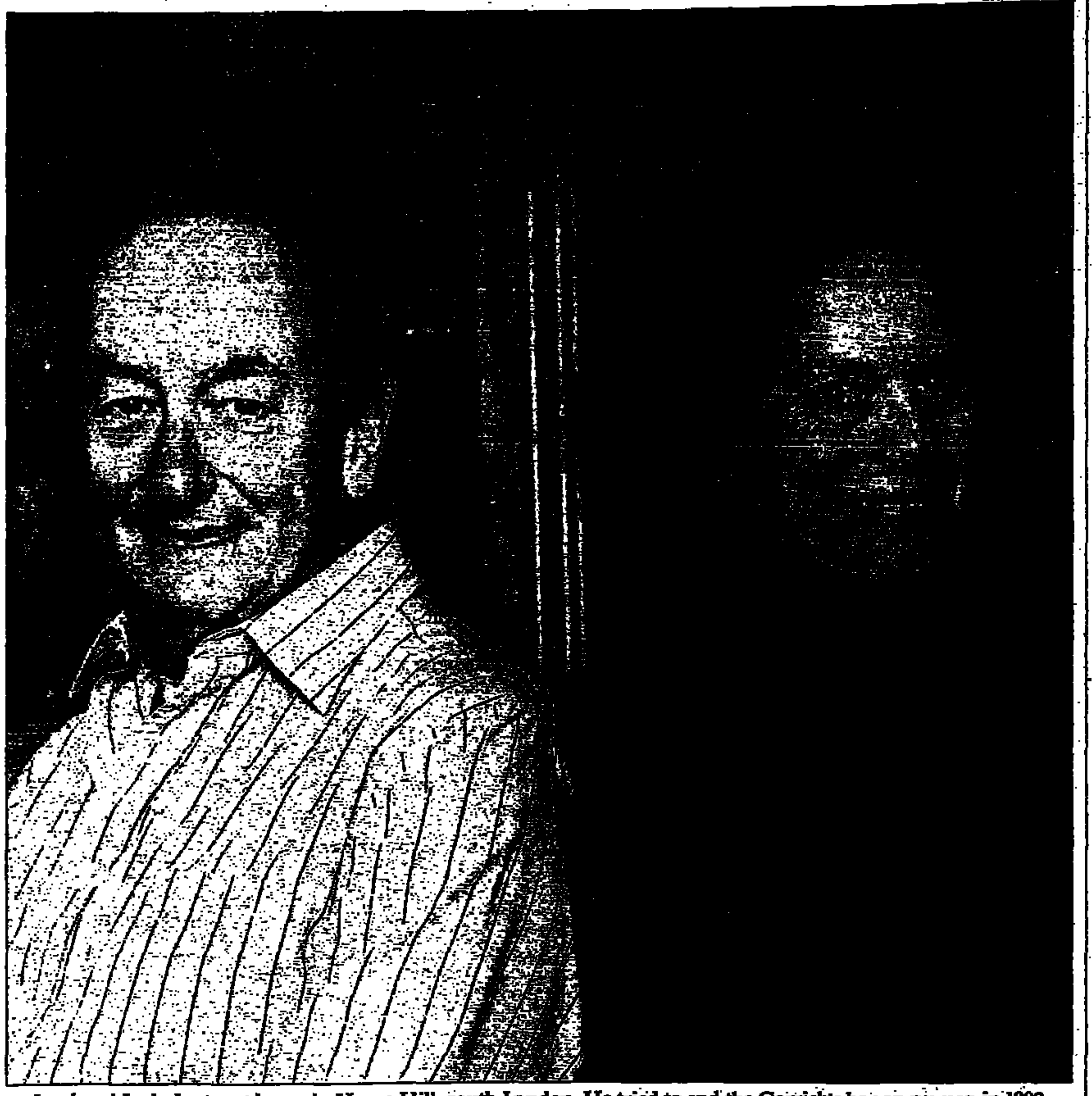
Lord Lester, 58, was one of the prime movers behind a failed challenge to the Garrick's bar on women in 1992. "I have only been there once since. I didn't feel happy being there; I didn't want to darken their doors," he said, adding that the response from the club to his letter of resignation was "grossly rude. There was no mention of regret that a member of long-standing should be leaving; I was just told that I could use the facilities until December. It was completely graceless."

Lady Lester, who would often accompany her husband to the club in the evenings, where women may dine with male club members in the coffee room and use other rooms except for the bar and study, said: "It's a splendid institution but I feel it should be brought into the 20th century. That someone like, for example, my old college friend, Mrs Justice Arden [a High Court judge in the Chancery division] should not be allowed in is simply crazy."

Lord Lester drafted the resolution in 1992 to admit women at the Garrick but was unavoidably out of the country at the time of the crucial vote which was lost by four to one after opponents turned out in droves. The chief opposition, he said, comes not from the judges and lawyers or writers at the club — nearly all of whom were in favour of admitting women — but from the "misogynists among actors and businessmen".

Lord Lester said he had decided to go public about his resignation after the news about David Butler.

CHRIS HARRIS



Lord and Lady Lester at home in Herne Hill, south London. He tried to end the Garrick's bar on women in 1992

Donated blood 'not checked for virus'

Thousands of infected blood donations have been given to patients despite the ready availability of a test for the Hepatitis C virus, according to *Panorama* on BBC1 tonight. The Blood Transfusion Service failed to check for the virus between 1989 and 1991, the programme claims.

Tory club raid

Eleven people were being held in police cells last night after an armed robbery at a Conservative club in Bournemouth. Police said that three men were arrested at the scene by police marksmen.

Russian ride

The British-registered charity Friends of Russian Children is seeking cyclists for a nine-day 450-mile ride between St Petersburg and Moscow in June. Money raised will go towards burns treatment.

Water work

The National Rivers Authority is to study riverbed "low life" to assess water quality in the South West. Certain species survive only in the cleanest water and the study will be compared with one in 1990.

Concrete answer

William Hillier, 59, who built his own house at Godshill Ridge in the New Forest, has been told by planners to fill the sitting-room with concrete because he did not have permission for the extra room.

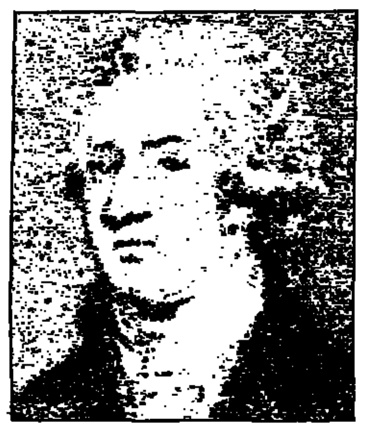
Youth drowns

Abner Turner, 17, drowned when he fell into the River Irwell after climbing a parapet on his way home with friends after drinking in Manchester city centre on Saturday night, police said yesterday.

Comedy honour

Eric Morecambe, the comedian who died in 1984, is to be honoured with a blue plaque on the house where he once lived in north London to coincide with what would have been his 69th birthday in May.

Museum saves 1777 calculator that inspired computer pioneer



Earl of Stanhope: invented an early adding machine

By Nigel Hawkes
Science editor

THREE valuable scientific instruments sold to Bonn University by the trustees of Chevening, the *Foreign Secretary's country house*, have been saved for the nation.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Science Museum have raised the £340,000 needed to keep the instruments in the country after their export was stopped three months ago by the reviewing committee on the export of works of art.

The time period allowed for a rescue bid for the instruments, originally given to the nation by Lord Stanhope, whose family owned Chevening, runs out tomorrow. *The three items, described by* the Science Museum as "very important", are a 17th-century calculating tool called a rotula, a calculator invented by the third *Lord Stanhope in 1777 and materi*als related to Stanhope's Demonstrator, a device for solving logical problems. They were sold through Sotheby's by private treaty to an unnamed buyer believed to be a German collector acting on behalf of Bonn University. He bid £340,537.

Of the three items, the Stanhope Calculator is the most important, reckoned to be worth £247,000 on its own. But since the items were sold as a single lot, the Science Museum must buy them all. Some *specialists in the field are angry* about the way the original sale was conducted. "Morally the idea of the nation having to buy things already given to it is repugnant," *one said. "The original sale was* carried out by the trustees under a veil of secrecy."

Sotheby's denies any impropriety. A spokesman said it advised a sale by private treaty, and contacted all likely bidders, including the national museums. This was the best way to obtain a top price on behalf of the trustees. "Nothing underhand was done," he added.

Captain David Husband, agent for the Chevening Estate, said that the trustees took legal advice. "There was no question of conceal*ing the sale. The trustees* were very reluctant to sell, but they had to bite the bullet. They have got to find extra funds to keep Chevening going."

Captain Husband's only regret is that, had the instruments gone to Bonn, the university had promised to make a replica for Chevening. Whether the Science Museum will prove so accommodating remains to be seen. He said that the trust had retained some important scientific materials, and had no plans to sell any more.

Chevening in Kent was the home of the Stanhope family until it was given to the nation in 1967. The trust established by Parliament to run the house has discretion to do *whatever it sees fit. In May 1993 it* held a sale of furniture, china and silver and raised more than £580,000.

The prize item of the three now *to go to the Science Museum*, Stanhope's Calculator, may have inspired a later computer pioneer, Charles Babbage.

Jane Wess of the Science Museum said that it was the first machine able to "carry" tens to the next column when doing calculations. The museum already had a prototype, *but* the version from Chevening appears to be a production model, made to Stanhope's design by James Bullock, a clockmaker.

Code restricts adverts aimed at children

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

THE advertising industry is to be required to take a more socially responsible stance in advertisements aimed at children. New rules published today will include a ban on alcohol advertisements in publications or on poster sites where more than 25 per cent of the potential audience is aged under 18.

From next month campaigns for slimming products directed at children or adolescents will be banned, as will any suggestion that it is desirable to be underweight. Caroline Crawford, a spokeswoman for the Advertising Standards Authority, which regulates all print and non-broadcast advertisements, said the new rules on slimming products had been prompted by concerns about the number of young people who might develop eating disorders partly as a result of perceived media pressure. Crash diets may not be promoted unless it is made clear that they are to be used under direct medical supervision.

Ms Crawford said that the revised code was designed to reflect the public's growing awareness of social problems and health and environmental issues. "The old requirements for advertisements to be legal, decent, honest and truthful remain, but the industry itself now feels that there is a need to spell out more clearly some of its responsibilities, especially towards the more vulnerable members of society."

To protect children's health the code, which has not been revised since 1988, stipulates that advertisements should not encourage children to eat or drink just before bedtime or to replace main meals with snack foods. Promotions or competitions aimed at children should not require excessive purchases before a child can take part, particularly when the prizes or incentives on offer are items that might cause conflict between parents and children such as animals, bicycles or holidays.

From February 1, when the new code comes into practice, *advertisements for costly and* complex goods or services for children will require advertisers to make clear that parental permission is required before a purchase is made.

The new code is a recognition of the growing awareness among consumers of the power of advertising and their increasingly sophisticated attitude towards it, and contains stiffer guidelines and rules in a wide range of product areas. One introduces a ban on health professionals and celebrities endorsing medicines. "We do not want to glamourise medicines to the extent that people end up using them because they are fashionable and not because they need them," Ms Crawford said.

The revised code does, however, permit advertisers to make stronger claims than previously allowed for anti-wrinkle cream, if its beneficial effects can be proved. "Before, we did not accept that there were things that could change the appearance of your skin, but now there is an acceptance that some products can make a difference," Ms Crawford said.

Claims such as "environmentally friendly" will no longer be acceptable without convincing proof that products cause no environmental damage. Advertisements for alcohol will have to include a prominent warning on the dangers of drinking and driving. Car manufacturers will no longer be able to make claims for speed or acceleration the predominant message of their advertisements.

Advertisers will also be urged to consider public sensitivities before using controversial material and should take care to avoid causing offence on the grounds of race, religion, sex or disability.

The new code has been approved, and in some cases instigated, by all the leading advertising trade bodies, including the Advertising Association and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising.

The Private Life of Plants
an illustrated lecture by
Sir David Attenborough

READERS of *The Times* are invited to attend an illustrated lecture by Sir David Attenborough on "The Private Life of Plants", organised in conjunction with Dillons the Bookstore, on Wednesday, January 25, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm.

Sir David is Britain's best-known biologist. His ground-breaking television programmes and books on wildlife have ensured our introduction to the lives of almost every animal in existence. Now, in his new BBC series, *The Private Life of Plants*, he turns his attention to flora and fauna, revealing in spectacular fashion that, much like animals, plants have to mate, compete with enemies, find food and get along with their neighbours. Sir David's illustrated talk will be based on the BBC book of the series.

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High grades cast doubt on quality of revised A levels

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

CANDIDATES taking controversial new A levels in which they sit regular examinations during their two-year course achieve better results than those on traditional courses, an unpublished report shows.

The first authoritative research into modular A levels, which are fast gaining popularity in schools and colleges, shows that pupils gain at least one extra grade. The finding by the University of Newcastle will fuel concerns that A-level standards, regarded by ministers as the benchmark of quality in education, are being jeopardised by the rapid and piecemeal introduction of an "easier" alternative.

In traditional A levels, grades are decided by final examinations. But in modular courses these are worth only 30 per cent. Instead the syllabus is divided into self-contained units roughly equivalent to a term's work. Pupils can choose to be formally examined after completing each unit, rather than waiting until the end of two years' study. If a pupil is unhappy with his mark for a particular unit he can retake the examination as often as he chooses.

The structure aims to boost motivation, particularly in the first year of A-level study. However, the findings of a report commissioned by the Government's examination watchdog, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, have raised questions about the leniency of modular courses.

Analysis by Newcastle researchers of more than 7,000 A-level mathematics candidates at almost 900 state and independent schools, who gained similar GCSE results, found the average candidate on a modular course gained a grade C, compared with a D for those on a traditional course. Barely 4 per cent of modular candidates failed, compared with 22 per cent of the rest.

One quarter of those on modular courses gained a grade A, compared with 19 per cent of those on traditional courses. Some 21 per cent of modular candidates got a B, 19 per cent a C and 18 per cent a D; compared with 15 per cent a B, 15 per cent a C and 16 per cent a D for traditional courses.

Professor Carol Fitz-Gibbon, director of the Curriculum, Evaluation and Management Centre at Newcastle, which produced the report, refused to comment in advance of publication. But previous work by the centre suggested that the under-representation of lower grades in modular courses was because candidates chose to improve their marks by re-sitting examinations before registering their final grades. Similarly, the low failure rate was to be expected as candidates would not bother to record officially that they had failed.

However, it is understood that researchers do not believe that the higher motivation of modular candidates and their willingness to re-sit examinations can explain such a large discrepancy.

Education, pages 37, 38

Schools short of qualified staff

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

ALMOST half the teachers in some subjects have no qualifications in that area beyond A level, according to a survey of English secondary schools.

The figures, released to a Labour MP, confirm a trend that may be accentuated by recruitment difficulties in the new school-based teacher-training system. Some universities have abandoned courses in some subjects because they cannot find enough schools to take student-teachers.

Technology and religious education have the highest proportion of unqualified teachers, according to the survey, done in 1992-93. A third of lessons in craft, design and technology, and a quarter of those in RE were taken by teachers lacking relevant qualifications. At least half of those teaching both subjects were inappropriately qualified.

Physical education, history, geography, English and some foreign languages had more than a quarter of teachers possessing no more than A levels in the subject. Stephen Byers, MP for Wallsend, expressed concern over the figures, which he was given in a Commons reply.

Geoffrey Parker, of the new Teacher Training Agency, has acknowledged that recruitment to the teaching profession is likely to be less buoyant as the economy picks up.

The switch to school-based training has run into problems. The Universities Council for the Training of Teachers has reported "considerable" difficulties in finding school placements for those training to teach mathematics, science, modern languages, music and minority subjects. Mary Russell, the council's secretary, said some universities had had to cut their intake by over 10 per cent because schools were reluctant to commit senior staff to training duties.

Byers: concerned over the figures

TONY WHITE

Nigel Chaplin decided to join the strike while Angie, his wife, continued to drive. Mr Chaplin now believes that he made a mistake

Bus drivers' strike takes an unusual turn

By Michael Horsnell

MOMENTS before the smart green-and-yellow bus appears, a red 12-seater van with the Transport and General Workers' Union emblem halts at the bus-stop where waiting passengers are offered a free ride. Result: empty bus, full union vehicle.

The mini-buses were pressed into service after Eastern National sacked 105 of its 150 drivers at Chelmsford for staging half-day strikes over new flexible duty schedules that they claim are unsafe. With the backing of Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, six vehicles owned by the union or hired for £600 a month and driven by sacked members have hijacked two routes operated by the Badgerline subsidiary.

The tactic is aimed at cutting revenue and winning the hearts of the people of Chelmsford. The company says it is losing £100 a day in fares but the union claims it loses over £200 a day.

Joan Pound, 65, a union bus passenger, said: "They were wrongly sacked. New terms and conditions were imposed and now they're fighting back. I admire them even if this doesn't get them back their jobs."

The union hopes that its use of mini-buses will cut Eastern National's revenue

The eight-week dispute has led to upset in one family. While Angie Chaplin, 36, refused to go on strike, her husband Nigel, a driver for 14 years, joined in. She now drives in competition with the union vehicles while Mr Chaplin remains at home.

Mr Chaplin, 36, said: "I thought it was a good cause but I soon realised I'd made a mistake and I couldn't get reinstated." His wife said: "The strike was a game of bluff by the union which went horribly wrong. Now working members are paying subscriptions to support a free service in competition against us. They could lose us our jobs." The couple, who can no longer meet mortgage commitments, have had excrement pushed through their letter-box and received threatening calls.

Alan Tebbit, 47, a British Empire Medal holder, who was sacked, says: "I'm a non-militant but when the company said we had no democratic right to go on strike, I decided I would exercise my right."

He is one of 32 drivers running the 20-minute services that net £200 a day in donations. The mini-buses are insured for passengers; because no fares are charged an operator's licence is not necessary. The hopes of the strikers, who receive £35-a-week distress money, rest on an extension of the dispute.

Eastern National, which said strikers had dismissed themselves, will be back to full strength next month after recruiting staff from 485 applications.

The dispute arose when drivers on a fixed 7hr 48min day refused to accept a flexible maximum of 8hr 30min, which Eastern National said would mean an average shift of 7hr 50min. Drivers at the company's three other depots had accepted the change. Drivers claim the rotas would mean working 4hr 45min without rest, a claim disputed by management.

Robin Orbell, Eastern National managing director, said a 4 per cent pay award in 1992 was conditional on productivity improvements.

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* Payment options available, subject to status. Written details on request.

MoD man held after arms raid

AN EMPLOYEE of the Ministry of Defence was arrested yesterday after police had raided his home and found a cache of arms. The middle-aged man was captured after eluding police for 48 hours.

Ministry and West Midlands Police officers had raided the man's home on Friday night after moving neighbours in Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, from their homes. A spokeswoman for the MoD said 50 weapons, including shotguns, other firearms and ammunition belonging to the ministry were taken away.

One neighbour, who declined to be named, said the man had no friends in the street and was often seen leaving his semi-detached home dressed in camouflage fatigues.

Detective Inspector Sid Lewis of the MoD Police in Stafford said: "The man is employed by the MoD and we have removed a quantity of equipment from his house." Officers had found guns and camouflage material belonging to the MoD during the search, which was due to continue for at least another two days.

Crash prompts tougher medicals for old pilots

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

ELDERLY pilots face tougher regular medical examinations to ensure they are fit to fly after the death of a 73-year-old man at the controls of his light aircraft. James Yates, who learnt to fly at the age of 66, and who was subsequently found to have a history of heart disease, crashed on a farm in Lincolnshire last October.

Air accident investigators recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority reviewed the way pilots were given medical examinations and urged them to discuss procedures with safety authorities in Europe and America.

Mr Yates, from Winchester, had taken off from Blackbushe airfield in his privatelyowned Grumman Tiger single-engined aircraft for a flight that appeared to be progressing normally. Suddenly, however, ground controllers lost contact and wreckage was found later near Waddington in Lincolnshire. The aircraft, which was apparently intact with complete flying controls, had hit the ground at high speed. A post-mortem examination showed that Mr Yates had "severe ongoing coronary artery disease" and medical records showed that he had suffered chest pains since 1984 and raised blood pressure.

So far no firm evidence has been found to show that Mr Yates died as a result of a heart attack during the flight. In his last examination in June, the ECG was regarded as "borderline" although the pilot "appeared to have had no subjective symptoms of heart disease sufficient to cause him to consult his own doctor".

However, investigators said in a prelimnary report that "in retrospect" they had shown abnormalities developing over the past two years. "With the benefit of hindsight these might reasonably have prompted more exhaustive further testing, particularly in view of the subject's age," they say.

"While it is recognised that no system of medical examination will detect all cases of significant cardian disease it is recommended that the medical divisison of the CAA should review the cardiovascular requirements of the medical examination and certification of elderly pilots," the investigators say.

The CAA has already begun an urgent review of the rules, which now state that all private pilots between the ages of 40 and 49 have a medical examination every two years, including an ECG heart examination. Between the ages of 50 and 69 such examinations have to take place once a year and after the age of 70 they must be conducted every six months.

In the United States no heart ECGs are required and nowhere is there an absolute age limit on pilots. There have been no cases of elderly pilots dying at the controls of a light aircraft although four crashes involving microlights and gliders have involved pilots aged over 65.

The CAA now hopes to be able to develop new and more sophisticated techniques for detecting potential heart trouble much earlier and preventing those pilots who may be at risk from taking to the air.

Guns aim to cut down 'black plague'

By Jack Crossley

THE sound of gunfire along the banks of the Wye this month will bring joy to anglers and despair to bird lovers. The targets will be cormorants, fish-hungry seabirds that have moved inland for easy pickings on waters coveted by anglers.

The fishermen's joy will be short-lived, according to experts who say that as fast as the cormorants are shot, others will fly in to take their place.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds sees government permission for the shooting on the Wye in Hereford and Worcester as an undeserved victory for the vociferous angling lobby. "Wipe out the black plague" is representative of the headlines in the fishing press. Ken Ball, president of the National Federation of Anglers, told the *Angling Times*: "In my opinion the short-term answer to the problem is to shoot the bloody things."

Roy Eastwood, editor of *Angler's Mail*, has thundered in his opinion column about the "decade of damage" caused by thousands of cormorants that prefer the easy inland winter to the difficulties of life at sea.

The bird lobby could not disagree more. It is dismayed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food appears to be granting more licences than ever and points to scientific reports supporting its case. In a recent paper entitled "Do cormorants find anglers indegestible?" Mark Feltham, senior lecturer in animal ecology at Liverpool John Moores University,

The cormorant

says: "The fishing lobby has remained persistent and evermore vocal in their demands for tough action to curb the 'black death'. The scale of the cormorant problem may, however, have been exaggerated and shooting does not alter the attractiveness of a fishery to new birds that often come in to replace shot birds." He goes on: "Let us be clear about one thing, at the moment there is no question of a cormorant cull. Under current legisation, shooting is only permitted to reinforce other methods of scaring, which must have been tried."

Ministry policy reflects this. Of the hundreds of cormorants along the Wye, permission has been given to shoot fewer than 30 between now and March 31.

Even so, Major David Shaw, who runs a fishery on the river, welcomes the licences: "They are a recognition that these birds are doing considerable damage to fish stocks. It is not a case of trying to cull a species of fish-eating bird to extinction, but to get control over a predator that is increasing by 5 to 10 per cent a year."

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'It is a very nice little earner, a real gravy train'

Builders excluded from Parkhurst cost £200,000

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

THE Prison Service has paid more than £200,000 to hundreds of building workers who have been barred from working at Parkhurst since the escape of two murderers and an arsonist.

Contractors have been unable to carry on refurbishment at the top-security jail while investigations by the police and Prison Service continue. The tradesmen's wage bill is being met by the taxpayer. Prison Service managers will attempt to find work for the contractors today at other jails to try to secure a return for the £16,000 a day they are paid.

Richard Gully, chairman of the prison's Board of Visitors, said: "Parkhurst is full of people involved in the investigation and the last thing that is wanted during that is contractors all over the place." Work was unlikely to restart for some weeks. The stoppage would delay the transfer of 130 high-risk prisoners from other prisons to new wings at Parkhurst.

Lewis: awaiting inquiry findings

One contractor said: "The Home Office is picking up the bill. It is a nice little earner, a real gravy train, and the toast at the moment is 'Here's to Williams, Rodger and Rose' [the recaptured escapers]."

A few workers are still being allowed inside, under close supervision of officers, to complete the installation of the vibration-sensitive geophones in the prison's security system, which would have alerted warders to the escape.

A Prison Service spokeswoman said: "We had to stop work at the prison while the inquiry into the escape is going on. We hope it will be possible soon for work to resume and we are also looking to see if the contractors can be given work elsewhere."

Meanwhile Derek Lewis, Director-General of the Prison Service, said yesterday that he held out the prospect of the former governor of Parkhurst being appointed to run another jail.

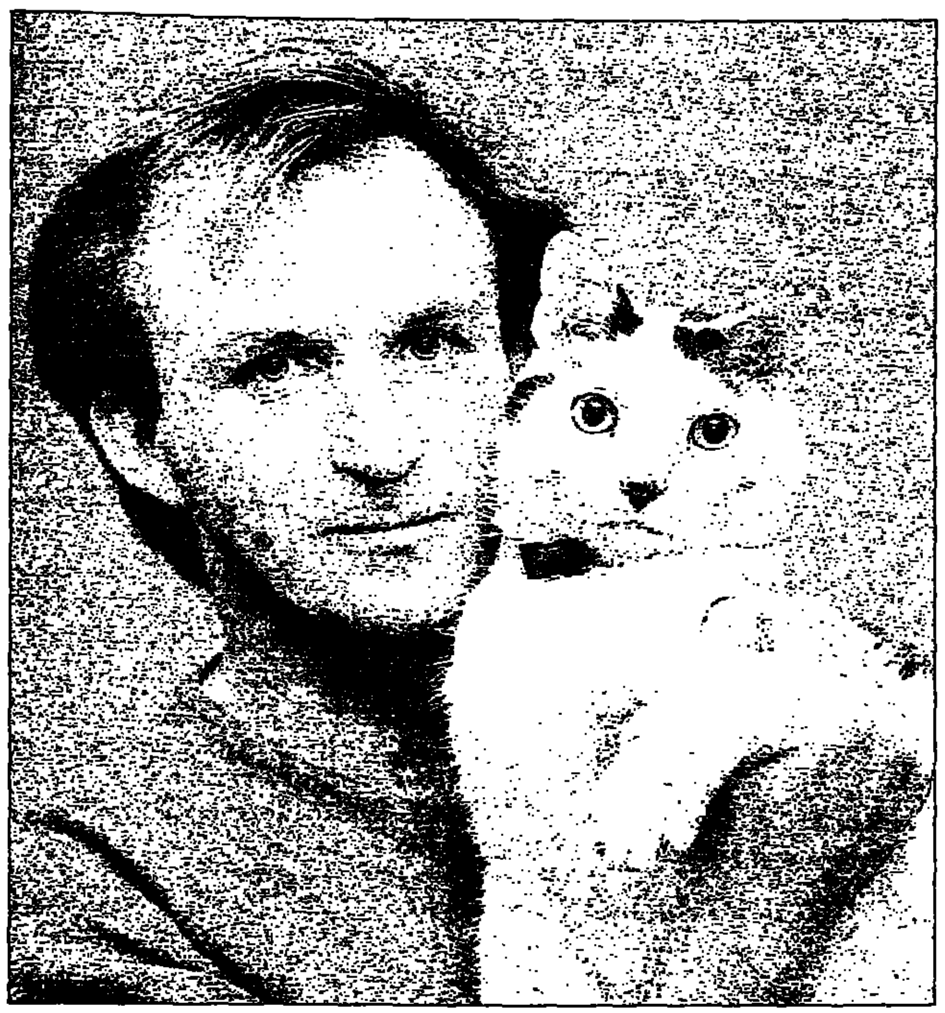
Mr Lewis said that there was nothing to stop John Marriott from running another prison if the inquiry did not blame him. Only Parkhurst would not be available to Mr Marriott, 48, because the service will soon appoint a new governor.

He emphasised that the decision whether disciplinary action should be taken against Mr Marriott was not prejudiced by Michael Howard's statement in the Commons. "There is no presumption of guilt at all," Mr Lewis told *Breakfast with Frost* on BBC1.

However, it is unlikely that Mr Marriott will be given charge of another prison under the present regime at the Home Office.

Mr Lewis said he would have to consider resignation if he was found by an independent prison inquiry to have been "personally at fault" for the break-out. He said: "If I was personally culpable for some of the individual things that went wrong in either Parkhurst or Whitemoor, yes clearly that might well affect my position."

☐ An inquiry has started at Whitemoor prison at March in Cambridgeshire into the suicide of an inmate. Prison officers found Mark Holness, aged 28, hanging in his cell at 5.30am on Saturday. Holness was convicted in 1992 of raping a girl aged 14.


Tiger, aged 10, with Nick Roberts, who returned daily to search for the family pet after the house was wrecked in a gas blast. "It's a miracle he survived," he said

Tom-cat survives house gas blast

A FAMILY who thought their pet tom-cat had died in a gas explosion that reduced their 17th-century cottage to rubble has turned up three weeks later little the worse for wear. Tiger was in the kitchen when the stone house blew up, scattering the sleeping occupants and their possessions over nine acres.

Stuart Roberts, 27, suffered severe spinal injuries when he was thrown, still on his mattress, through the bedroom window and onto the pavement below. His parents Alan, 54, and Rosemary Roberts, 53, crashed to the ground as the first floor collapsed.

After the explosion the couple's other son Nick returned to the scene in Keynsham, Avon, each day to look for Tiger.

"I kept going back and looking through the rubble and suddenly there was Tigs at the bottom of the field. He had lost his whiskers and his fur was badly singed. He seemed a little dazed, but the vet said he was perfectly all right."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer South **Love all. Rubber bridge**

♠K874
♥QJ32
♦A
♣J942

♠QJ1092
♥10765
♦K83
♣Q

♠3
♥K98
♦J10742
♣K1085

♠A65
♥A4
♦Q965
♣A763

S	W	N	E
1NT (1)	Pass	2♣ (2)	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Dble (3)
Rdble (4)	All pass		

Opening lead: ♠Q

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

(1) 12-14 HCP
(2) Stayman — asking for four card major
(3) Good rubber bridge players often double contracts which would be played undoubled in a tournament. In this sequence East knows that North-South have nothing to spare, and he sees that there are bad breaks in the minors. Even so, I would have been too chicken to do it — the likely spade lead may work out badly.
(4) Ludicrously macho. It is almost never correct to redouble when you have no surprises for the opposition — just having a maximum is not enough. South needs a concealed source of tricks: something like a five-card club suit to the ace-queen-nine, as well as a maximum point count.

Declarer ducked the queen of spades and took the next spade with the ace, East discarding a diamond. Hoping for a miracle in clubs, he continued with a low club. West won and played a spade, won in dummy with the king. Now declarer led the jack of clubs, trying to make three club tricks if West had started with the queen-ten alone. East obviously covered the jack; after winning the ace the declarer tried ace and another heart. A diamond from East after he won the king of hearts completed the debacle.

South made only six tricks — two spades, two hearts, and two minor-suit aces for a 1,000 point penalty. East, the doubler, made one trick and West managed six.

☐ I suppose the triskaidekaphobes may have enjoyed Friday the 13th's column. Apologies to the other readers. The contract was Four Hearts Doubled, and West (who should have bid 4NT over Four Hearts, now that I look at it again) led the ace of diamonds.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Short and sweet

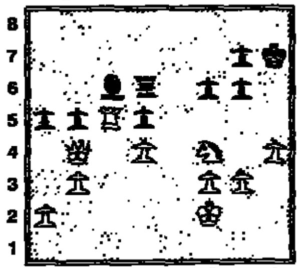
Nigel Short got off to a good start in the international knockout tournament at Wijk aan Zee in The Netherlands, easily dispatching his opponent in the first round. Other leading competitors are Britain's Michael Adams, the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman and American grandmaster Yasser Seirawan.

White: Short
Black: Tregubov
Wijk aan Zee, January 1995

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	e6
3	c3	d5
4	exd5	exd5
5	d4	Nf6
6	Bd3	Nbd7
7	0-0	Be7
8	Re1	0-0
9	Bg5	Re8
10	Nbd2	a6
11	Nf1	cxd4
12	cxd4	Nf8
13	Ne5	N6d7
14	Bxe7	Rxe7
15	Nf3	Rxe1
16	Qxe1	Qb6
17	Qd2	Nf6
18	Ng3	Ng6
19	Re1	Bg4
20	Bxg6	hxg6
21	Ng5	Nh7
22	Nxh7	Kxh7
23	h3	Be6
24	Rc1	Bd7
25	b3	Qd6
26	Ne2	Re8
27	Nc3	Qb4
28	Rd1	Bc6
29	h4	a5
30	g3	Re6
31	f3	b5
32	Kf2	Qe7
33	Ne2	Qa3
34	Nf4	Rd6
35	Rc1	f6
36	Rc5	Qb4
37	Qxb4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



After 37 ... axb4 38 Nd3 Black will lose two pawns by force.

Martin wins

The indefatigable Chris Dunworth has organised yet another international title standard tournament in London. On this latest occasion, the St Peters de Beauvoir International, first prize was taken by the New Zealand master Ben Martin with 6 points from 9 possible. Other leading scores were: Whiteley 5.5, and Dunworth, Harley, McDonald and Olesen 5.

Linares tournament

In spite of earlier doubts, this year's Linares super tournament will run from February 28 until March 18, with a field including Kasparov, Karpov, Shirov, Kramnik, Ivanchuk, Short, Polgar and Adams.

Winning Move, page 44

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Saudi manoeuvres heighten tension on Yemen border

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

EGYPT was leading urgent Arab mediation efforts last night to defuse a territorial row between Saudi Arabia and Yemen after reports that they had reinforced troops along their disputed, oil-rich border where there have been isolated clashes in recent weeks.

Egypt, friendly with both countries, said they were keen to reach a "decent settlement" without resorting to guns. The crisis dominated an emergency meeting in Cairo between President Mubarak and President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, who stopped by on his way to Paris for a three-nation European tour.

"I believe there is a keenness to reach a decent settlement based on understanding, away from any deterioration of the situation, and by avoiding any possibility of clashes on the borders between the two brotherly states," said Safwat Sherif, Egypt's Information Minister. Mr Mubarak was also in "constant contact" with Saudi Arabia.

Yemenis appeared less optimistic. "They way things are evolving, there is a real possibility of escalation in the war," said Abdul Aziz Sakkaf, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Yemen Times*. "There is a lot of bad feeling on both sides."

There were unconfirmed reports that Saudi troops were massing near Harad in northwestern Yemen, Al-Buqa in the north and the southeastern province of Al-Mahrah. They were supported by rocket launchers and had brought in American-built F15 warplanes to replace ageing F5s at Harad and Al-Buqa, Yemeni security sources said. Yemen denied reports that its forces had moved troops to the border and had occupied positions *within* Saudi Arabia.

There were suspicions in Yemen that Saudi Arabia had escalated border tensions in the hope that Mr Saleh would cancel his European tour. "He's going to visit three very critical countries — France, The Netherlands and Germany — countries that have been least influenced by Saudi pressures within the European group," Mr Sakkaf said.

Tension has increased since the new year after Saudi Arabia and Yemen failed to renew the Taif agreement of 1934 which set the de facto frontiers between the two states and which comes up for renewal every 20 years. Diplomats said several rounds of talks had centred on procedural rather than substantive matters.

A high-level Yemeni delegation led by Aheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Amar, the parliamentary Speaker, was due in Saudi Arabia yesterday to ease border *tensions, but post*poned the visit at Riyadh's request. The talks were intended to pave the way for the Yemeni President to visit Saudi Arabia.

Bitter animosities rooted in territorial and tribal disputes date back to the early 1930s when Saudi Arabia defeated Yemen in a border war and ceded control of provinces that are still disputed.

Relations soured in 1990 when Saudi Arabia opposed the unification of North and South Yemen, fearing a more populous but impoverished neighbour to the south that claimed a commitment to democracy. Later that year, Yemen infuriated Saudi Arabia by sympathising with Iraq in the Kuwait crisis and more than a million Yemeni workers were expelled from the kingdom.

Three die in Israeli raid

Beirut: Israeli planes attacked a Palestinian guerrilla base near the Lebanese capital yesterday, killing three people and closing Beirut airport for an hour. An Alitalia flight from Rome and two flights of Lebanon's Middle East Airlines, from London and Geneva, were diverted to Larnaca in Cyprus, airport authorities said. Security sources said three people were killed as four Israeli jets fired rockets at the hills above the coastal village of Naameh, about ten miles south of Beirut. It was the third Israeli raid in Lebanon in six days. ***(Reuter)***

President Mandela stands in front of a portrait of Joe Slovo, who was buried yesterday

Mandela honours 'Comrade Joe' at Soweto funeral

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN SOWETO

TO THE refrain of "Farewell, Spear of the Nation warrior: We shall kill the Boers," Joe Slovo, the white Communist anti-apartheid leader and, for the last eight months, South Africa's Housing Minister, was lowered into his grave amid scenes of chaos.

Slovo, who died of cancer at 68, was the first white man to be buried in Soweto's Avalon cemetery. While his plain pine coffin was lowered into the ground in Heroes' Acre, several thousand mourners crowded around and a woman who collapsed in the crush was carried through the throng to get medical help.

Despite repeated appeals from masters of ceremonies, including Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, the crowd continued to press forward, blocking access to the graveside for many VIPs and for a time the funeral cortège. Roads were blocked by tens of thousands of mourners walking across Soweto from Orlando stadium in the north where the orations were delivered to the cemetery in the far south. President Mandela abandoned his attempt to go to the graveside because of the crush.

The burial took place an hour and 40 minutes late. There was, however, no repeat of the violence which surrounded the funeral of Chris Hani, the Communist Party secretary-general, who was shot dead in 1993 by a white *rightwinger. Then a number* of houses were burned, others looted, and several white people killed.

Yesterday organisers insisted that no firearms be carried to the funeral and that anyone carrying an unlicensed gun would be arrested. The crowd yesterday was generally good humoured, though many were deeply affected by the death of the man regarded as a hero in the townships.

They listened in near silence to Helena Dolny, his widow, reading a eulogy at the graveside. Ms Dolny was flanked by Gillian, Robyn and Shawn, Mr Slovo's three daughters from his marriage *to Ruth First, who was killed* by a parcel bomb while in exile in Mozambique.

Earlier in the packed 35,000-seat Orlando stadium, Mr Mandela praised Slovo, with whom he founded the ANC's guerrilla army Umkhonto we Sizwe, (Spear of the Nation). "When future generations look back on the 1994 breakthrough," Mr Mandela said, "they will be justified in saying: Uncle Joe was central in making it happen."

"Comrade Joe," Mr Mandela added, "was a chief architect who helped lay the foundation for a better life."

Slovo, born in a Lithuanian *shtetl (rural ghetto), was also* praised by Cyril Harris, South Africa's Chief Rabbi. On the platform were Cabinet ministers, including five from the National Party led by Pik Botha, the former Foreign Minister, who is now Minister for Energy and Mines, who stood in for F. W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President. They sat behind a floral display of a hammer-and-sickle in a black star on a red background and beside a flag with the communist symbol.

China rejects US dissident query

Washington is keeping up the pressure on Peking over human rights as US and other Western trade continues, writes ***James Pringle****, the new Times correspondent in Peking*

PEKING, signalling no let-up in its recent more draconian stance on dissidents, yesterday rejected high-level American efforts to try to discover what has happened to Wei Jingsheng, China's most prominent democracy activist.

Mr Wei was rearrested last April after infuriating Chinese security agencies by meeting John Shattuck, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights.

Mr Shattuck said in Peking yesterday, after failing to obtain news of Mr Wei, a former electrician, that he knew he had not been charged. The dissident served most of a 15-year sentence in a labour camp for alleged sedition after calling Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, a "despot" and campaigning for "the fifth modernisation — democracy" during the Democracy Wall period in 1979.

His whereabouts and those of Tong Yi, his female secretary, are a mystery to the foreign diplomatic community. He was originally released in September 1993 shortly before the International Olympic Committee was to decide the 2000 Olympics venue.

Even China's repressive punishment machinery had not been enough to subdue Mr Wei, however. Once freed, he resumed his campaign for rights and democracy.

Police, who have a right to hold citizens for three years under "administrative detention", claim Mr Wei is under "residential surveillance", although he has not been seen by his family since last April. China's latest crackdown on political activists began early last year, foreign envoys say, when Peking began to be concerned that rising inflation could be exploited by dissidents. Inflation was one of the touchstones of popular unrest in the lead-up to the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Mr Shattuck, who saw officials in the Foreign, Public Security and Justice ministries while he was here, painted a gloomy picture of human rights in China, saying there had not been any improvement in the past year, particularly in freedom of speech, association and religion. But he thought there had been "some positive development" in longer-term areas of legal reform.

While the Americans last year removed the link between China's most favoured nation trading status and human rights, envoys here say that Washington is at least keeping up some form of diplomtic pressure through the regular visits of Mr Shattuck. Other Western states seem to have given up the struggle in favour of tapping China's vast economic market.

"These are difficult times for the Chinese Government, with high inflation and rural joblessness, and it's best to keep the talks going even if no progress is being made now," a Western envoy said. "If the link, however tenuous, is broken, it will be harder to resume dialogue on human rights issues later."

Test star urged to run for high office

BY ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN KARACHI
AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

MILLIONS of Pakistanis are lobbying Imran Khan, the former Test cricket player, to try to persuade him to move on from fast bowling to fast talking and stand for election as Prime Minister.

Life-sized images of him have appeared throughout Lahore, his home city, along with huge billboards proclaiming him "Prime Minister". Tens of thousands of people recently thronged Lahore's giant stadium when he attended the opening of a hospital named after his mother, Shaukat Khanum, who died of cancer.

Imran, 42, retired from Test cricket after leading Pakistan to victory in the World Cup final against England in Australia in 1992. Since then, he has abandoned his Armani suits in favour of traditional Pakistani clothes as he launches tirades against what he describes as his nation's corrupt and anglicised elite.

The Oxford-educated Imran, who has been linked with Stephanie Beacham, Goldie Hawn and Emma Sargent, the British painter, has also announced that he will marry a conservative Muslim girl this year.

Imran: has abandoned his Armani suits

Hostage killers go unpunished in Cambodia amnesty

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN PHNOM PENH

THE Khmer Rouge guerrilla commander who kidnapped three British, French and Australian backpackers in southern Cambodia last year — all murdered in a jungle hideout three months later — has defected to the Government under an amnesty and will not be punished. "I pitied them," he said. "What they were *killed for, I do not know.*"

He revealed that Pol Pot, responsible for a million deaths in the "killing fields" reign of terror in the 1970s, personally gave the order to take the men hostage when they were discovered on a passenger train that had been halted and looted. This confirms that the mass murderer is still leading the Khmer Rouge campaign designed to restore them to power.

Pol Pot, using the codename Number 99, evidently directed events by radio from a hideout near the Thai border while the British, French and Australian Governments appealed for the men's lives, knowing secretly that there was little chance of success.

Chhouk Rin, a pleasant-looking man with a scarred face from a bullet wound and a mangled foot from a landmine, had the rank of colonel in the Khmer Rouge. He led the ambush on a train in Kampot province last July, in which the foreigners were travelling.

He became a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces this month under the terms of a six-month amnesty, which expired yesterday. He will not be punished for for his significant role in the "killing fields" *campaign, which ended when* the Khmer Rouge regime was toppled by a Vietnamese invasion in late 1978.

Mark Slater, from England, David Wilson, an Australian, and Jean-Michel Braquet, a Frenchman, were heading south to the coast when their train was halted. The Cambodian Government has since banned foreigners from travelling by train outside Phnom Penh.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rin, who was with the Khmer Rouge for 24 years, said he interviewed the hostages through an interpreter on Vine Mountain. They thought that as they were only tourists they would be released; they had not seemed frightened. "I told them I thought it would be done quickly. I didn't know it was such a political, military and diplomatic thing. I pitied them because they were foreigners who could not live in the jungle like I could."

US tourist killed

Phnom Penh: An American woman and her Cambodian tour guide were killed yesterday when their vehicle was hit by gunfire in the northwest of Cambodia.

The woman's husband, also an American, was injured in *the shooting 15 miles north of* the provincial town of Siem Reap on the road to Banteay Srei temple, Ieng Mouly, the Information Minister, said.

"He was evacuated to Phnom Penh for medical care and his condition is described as stable," the minister said. It was not clear whether the those involved in the "shooting incident" were Khmer Rouge guerrillas or rural bandits. The United States Embassy in Phnom Penh said last night it *could not immediately identify* either the woman or her husband. Siem Reap is home to the 12th century Angkor Wat temple complex, the country's biggest tourist attraction. *(AFP)*

Saddam 'faced air force coup'

Tehran: Iraqi air force officers mounted a coup against President Saddam Hussein but he escaped the assassins' bullets at the al-Ramadi palace, near Baghdad, the official Irna Iranian news agency reported yesterday.

Quoting Iraqi sources in Amman, the Jordanian capital, the agency said 14 air force *officers were arrested and* their alleged ringleader, General Muhammad Mazloum al-Dalimiyi, was "savagely" executed. But Irna gave no date for the failed coup, and there was no immediate comment on the report from Baghdad or the Iraqi opposition in exile. *(AFP)*

Holocaust study

Frankfurt: Germany's first centre for the study of Nazi genocide has opened, 50 years after the war. The Fritz Bauer Foundation is named after the prosecutor in the trials of SS men who ran Auschwitz. *(AP)*

Peace offer

Paris: Algeria's militant Armed Islamic Group said it was prepared to end its war against the Government if Algiers accepted a plan for a settlement drafted by main opposition groups. *(Reuter)*

Niger unrest

Niamey: Troops were called out after two supporters of Niger's main pro-government party were wounded in incidents following an opposition victory in parliamentary elections. *(AFP)*

Death watch

Delhi: Indian authorities have found the skeleton of a policeman whose wife kept his body wrapped in a quilt on their balcony for nearly two years, because she thought he might return to life. *(Reuter)*

US prepares to pull troops out of Haiti

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICA will this week declare the creation of a "stable and secure environment" in Haiti, opening the way for the transfer of the multinational intervention force to United Nations command before the end of March.

Diplomats say that the commander of the American-led force in Haiti will make the announcement to the UN Security Council tomorrow, despite the killing of the first American soldier in the Caribbean country last week.

The Security Council will respond by increasing the UN presence in Haiti so that it is ready to assume control from *the American-led force which* intervened last October to restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the President who was ousted in a 1991 coup.

The council is also expected to draft a new mandate for the enlarged UN force, instructing it to maintain the "secure environment", to oversee parliamentary polls due next year and to train a Haitian police force to take over when UN troops leave in February 1996.

At the height of the US intervention, there were 21,000 American troops in Haiti. There are about 8,000 soldiers in the multinational force. The UN plans to station a force of 6,000 in Haiti, with up to 3,000 American servicemen remaining there under UN command.

Congress has been putting the Clinton Administration under pressure to pull Ameri*can troops out of Haiti. But* some UN officials have said that if the troops are removed too soon there may be a repeat of the debacle in Somalia, where fighting flared as soon as the UN took command.

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Calls for new Malcolm X death inquiry

BY JAMES BONE

THE arrest of Malcolm X's daughter has spawned a conspiracy theory that promises to become the black American equivalent of "Who killed JFK?" Qubilah Shabazz, 34, who saw her father's assassination in 1965, was charged last week with trying to hire a hitman to kill the rival black Muslim leader, Louis Farrakhan, whom the family suspects of involvement in Malcolm X's death.

Within hours, however, it emerged that the proposed hitman was a government informer. Both the alleged perpetrator and the intended victim accused the Government of orchestrating a conspiracy. *Ms Shabazz's lawyer* accused the informer of acting as an agent provocateur, while Mr Farrakhan's Nation of Islam organisation said the Government was trying to split the black community.

At the centre of the controversy is Michael Fitzpatrick, a childhood friend of Ms Shabazz, who changed his identity and entered a witness protection programme after giving evidence for the prosecution about a bomb plot by a radical Jewish group.

Mr Fitzpatrick infiltrated the New Jewish Defence League, a militant splinter group of Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist JDL. However, his real purpose was to act as a paid FBI informant, and in 1978 he unmasked a plot by the group to bomb the Egyptian tourist office in New York. With government help, Mr Fitzpatrick began a new life as Michael Summers, and dropped out of sight in Minnesota until last week.

Prosecutors allege that Ms Shabazz had plotted Mr Farrakhan's assassination with Mr Fitzpatrick, and had given him a down-payment for the job. He is expected to appear in court for the prosecution. Newspapers reported at the weekend that Mr Fitzpatrick was arrested in a drug raid in Minneapolis in November 1993 and appeared in court under the name Michael Kevin Summers. The case, due back in court last week, was mysteriously postponed.

Ms Shabazz's arrest comes after a recent documentary film asserting that Mr Farrakhan, who used to call himself "Louis X", played a part in the plot to assassinate Malcolm X. Mr Farrakhan denies involvement in the killing.

Just as the Oliver Stone film *JFK* prompted calls for the Government to open the files on President Kennedy's assassination, so have the arrest of Ms Shabazz and the revelations about the role of a government informer led to pressure for an investigation into the death of Malcolm X.

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كتاب المؤتمر 1/50

Millions of Filipinos turn out to hear Pope

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

AN ESTIMATED four million Filipinos crowded into a park in Manila yesterday to greet the Pope. It was the largest audience he has addressed, even in his native Poland.

The energy of the huge crowd inspired the ailing Pope to bang his silver-topped walking cane on the vast stage and twirl it around in the style of Maurice Chevalier.

The crowd was so vast that the pontiff had to abandon plans to travel by road to Luneta Park and borrow a presidential helicopter instead.

Hundreds of thousands had camped out overnight to be assured of front-row positions for the Pope's Mass for World Youth Day. The poor brought in their food, water jugs and sleeping mats. The rich brought their cellular phones. Young, old and mothers with babies in prams trooped to the park more than 24 hours early to stake out their positions.

With 80 per cent of the Filipino population professing to be Catholics, the Pope was assured of a euphoric reception, but nobody had envisaged a gathering that would dwarf the People Power revolt, which overthrew the dictatorship of President Marcos in 1986.

Chief Superintendent Jewel Canson, the head of Manila's police, said "between two and three million" people had turned up, but there were suggestions that the number exceeded four million. Ambulances were unable to reach dozens of people who fainted from the heat and exhaustion because of the crowd.

The Pope, who had looked frail when he arrived on Thursday for a five-day visit, appeared rejuvenated by the reception. When he appeared on stage, in full vestments and mitre, the Pope was infected by the enthusiasm and clapped in time with the youth delegates' chants of "John Paul Two. We love you". He banged his staff on the floor from time to time.

Addressing the delegates, who came from all over the world to celebrate the tenth World Youth Day, he took a strong stand against premarital sex, drug abuse and alcoholism.

The pontiff later held a separate meeting with bishops from all over Asia. He expressed his concern that the region's economic boom has resulted in religious indifference and exaggerated individualism, which threatens traditional values. He asked for greater evangelisation in Asia.

When the Pope leaves today for Papua New Guinea on the next leg of his Asian tour, he will have set the stage for a further quarrel between the Philippines church and the Government of President Ramos. During his address to Filipino bishops on Saturday, the pontiff endorsed their opposition to the Government's policy of birth control.

"Your firm stand against the pessimism and selfishness of those who plot against the splendour of human sexuality and human life is an essential demand of your pastoral ministry and of your service to the Filipino people," he said. Mr Ramos is not expected to answer the Church's attacks publicly but to deflect criticisms in behind-the-scenes dialogue instead.

Part of the vast throng that attended the Mass celebrated by the Pope in Manila yesterday, believed to be the biggest crowd he has addressed

Leaders ready to succeed Deng

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

THE statement from Deng Xiaoping's daughter at the weekend that he is dying will have been approved by the highest leadership. The message is that the new leadership is confidently in place.

There is a convention in Peking that some important messages are given to foreigners first and relayed back into China by the foreign media, making them more believable than official statements.

Ms Deng's message that Chinese and foreigners must be prepared for the death of the paramount leader indicates confidence by Mr Deng's hand-picked successors that the changeover will not cause a political earthquake. Until last week, Mr Deng's family and the official media were insisting that his health was excellent. Last Thursday, however, China released a photograph of him taken on National Day, last October, propped in a chair and staring vacantly into space. The message was plain: Mr Deng's days are numbered.

Vatican ready for ties with Peking

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

THE Vatican and Peking, whose have failed to recognise each other diplomatically for more than 40 years, are on the verge of a reconciliation in which the Pope is again regarded by China as the spiritual head of the nation's Catholic Church, but Peking will play a key role in appointing bishops.

This is the significance of the remarks made in Manila by the Pope during his tumultuously received four-day visit, and by the delegates from mainland China. In a recorded address to China's Catholics, the Pope challenged Peking's view, held since 1951, that it alone can appoint the senior hierarchy. "True Catholics cannot reject the principle of communion with a successor of Peter," he said.

The Pope said he was aware of the sufferings that China's Catholics have endured for years, during which many of the clergy — particularly those appointed by, or loyal to, Rome — spent decades in prison. But the Pope referred to the Chinese people as a whole and assured the Peking authorities that they had nothing to fear from Catholics who regard the Pope as their spiritual leader. The emphasis was on the word spiritual.

The 24-member delegation from China affirmed the Pope's spiritual leadership and said that only Rome's diplomatic relationship with Taiwan stands in the way of a full rapprochement. A Hong Kong-based Catholic specialist said this was the Pope's second important statement after his praise of China in 1981.

French upset at sacking of bishop

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

ROMAN Catholics gathered in silent demonstration outside dozens of churches and cathedrals across France yesterday in protest at the sacking of Mgr Jacques Gaillot, the Bishop of Evreux, whose liberal teaching and media antics angered the Vatican.

With his support for homosexuals and appearances on trendy chat shows, Mgr Gaillot, 59, who has held the lower Normandy diocese since 1982, is not popular among his fellow prelates, many of whom signed a letter reproaching him for his excesses last year. However, his abrupt removal on Friday on the orders of the Pope has upset most French bishops and angered many priests and churchgoers, who believe the Vatican is out of touch with society.

Mgr Jacques Delaporte, the Archbishop of Cambrai, one of several leading figures who condemned the measure, called it a symbol of failure. "This is a wound for our Church ... it is a source of incomprehension for the poor and the seekers of meaning who put their trust in it," he said. Mgr Joseph Duval, Archbishop of Rouen and head of the French bishops' conference, said he was unhappy with Rome's decision.

However, some guardians of orthodoxy such as Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris, approved of Mgr Gaillot's removal, the harshest sanction against a senior clergyman since the Pope excommunicated Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in 1988 for rejecting the reforms of the Vatican II council.

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Rose considered showing airstrike plans to Serbs

FROM JOEL BRAND IN ZAGREB

THE United Nations commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, wanted to give Bosnian Serbs advance copies of secret Nato flight plans in an attempt to win their co-operation, Nato and UN sources alleged yesterday.

A spokesman for General Rose said that no such documents had yet been provided to the Serbs.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo, said: "As a part of the cessation of hostilities [agreement], it was felt here that in the spirit of co-operation one of the measures the UN Protection Force could take was to advise both parties of air operations. I don't know if a decision had been taken, but it was being considered as an option."

Top Nato officers were opposed to disclosing the plans. A Nato source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "If the entire plan was given out, it leaves us very little security to our operations." It is not something that you hand out to a party which has the capability to do us harm — and in fact has done so in the past." The Bosnian Serbs had demanded advance copies of the Nato flight plans at a key meeting with General Rose in December.

The UN commander had been trying to persuade them to end their blockade of peacekeeping troops and to allow the Sarajevo airlift to resume. At that time, UN officers and officials dismissed the flight plan demand as impossible on the ground of risks to Nato military security.

Concerned that General Rose might breach Nato security, alliance officers stopped providing the UN military command with their regular daily plan of warplane activity over Bosnia on Saturday.

The affront enraged General Rose, who threatened to call a press conference to denounce Nato for obstructing the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. Hearing of General Rose's intentions, Admiral Leighton Smith, the American commander of Nato forces in Southern Europe, quickly telephoned the UN commander and dissuaded him after a heated discussion.

Later in the day, General Rose drafted a letter of apology to Admiral Smith, according to a source.

At the UN's headquarters in Zagreb, an official said they were not aware of such an arrangement, or that it was being considered. He dismissed suggestions that the idea of providing informtion about Nato military operations would be helpful to both warring parties.

"The only party that is going to come under airstrikes is the Serbs," the official said. "The Serbs have always requested this, and it is all part of a package of weakening the Nato operation to a point which suits the Serbs. It is being done in the hope of securing Serb co-operation."

General Rose, who has been lauded by the British Government, has crossed swords with top Nato officials on several occasions in the past over how to respond to Serb provocations. Last November, he effectively undermined the threat of Nato airstrikes when he argued successfully against alliance commanders who wanted to destroy Serb air defence systems that had been targeting and firing on their warplanes.

General Rose has often stated his concern that a confrontation between Nato and the Bosnian Serbs would end the UN humanitarian mission and endanger many of his 23,000 troops.

The former commander of the Special Air Service regiment will be replaced on schedule, January 24, after completing his one-year tour in Bosnia. In July he is to be awarded his fourth star and assume one of the top three posts in the British Army, Adjutant-General.

The first vehicles pass through a checkpoint on the new UN "blue route" at Sarajevo airport before the Serbs halted traffic

Sarajevo blockade 'threatens truce deal'

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

BOSNIAN Serbs are jeopardising a nationwide ceasefire by refusing to end a blockade of supply routes into Sarajevo and the shelling of Bihac, United Nations officials said yesterday.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the commander of UN troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and aides went yesterday to the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale as part of fresh efforts to repair the fraying two-week truce. But they emerged with no agreement on the reopening of the "blue routes" into the Bosnian capital.

General Rose's plan to reopen civilian routes into Sarajevo failed on Saturday when Serb forces brought up last-minute preconditions and threatened to fire on vehicles if their demands were ignored, UN officials said. The Serb leadership denied it had threatened to fire at cars.

UN sources said the Serbs were posing "ridiculous" conditions such as notification of each vehicle and the right to confiscate anything aboard "they don't like".

Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, a UN spokesman, said: "If the BSA [Bosnian Serb Army] is not prepared to come to some sort of arrangement, then this puts the peace process in jeopardy."

A woman, 19, was killed yesterday in Bihac, in the northwest, when a mortar bomb hit a school, according to Paul Risley, a UN spokesman. A 15-year-old girl died and her mother was wounded when a second shell struck a nearby building.

Bosnian state radio said that 11 people were wounded in the attacks. Five Bihac residents were killed and at least four were injured on Saturday when a mortar bomb hit a bridge.

Mr Risley could not rule out that Krajina Serbs from Croatia, who did not sign the new ceasefire, had fired the mortar rounds.

General prepares to hand over Bosnia baton

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER senior British Army figure will this month take over the unenviable responsibility of commanding the 24,000 United Nations troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina. As Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose leaves the post after 12 gruelling months, Major-General Rupert Smith, a Gulf War veteran, moves in.

Few would disagree that the job is one of the most taxing and politically sensitive roles for any army officer. General Rose spent much of his career in the SAS, yet the Bosnian command has been one of his toughest assignments. Like his predecessors, Generals Philippe Morillon, Francis Briquemont and Lewis Mackenzie, he has had to face the daily frustrations of dealing with warring commanders who rarely keep their word and are expert in guile and deceit.

General Briquemont, from Belgium, left early, confessing that the job was impossible, not just because of local difficulties but because of the frustrations of operating under the restraining influence of the UN in New York.

Smith: regarded as key strategic thinker during the Gulf War

Since his departure and the subsequent tour of duty by General Morillon — the Frenchman who achieved so much, yet left with Sarajevo still a daily target for Serb artillery fire — the role of UN commander has become even more complex. General Rose began his tour with a robustness and determination that encouraged new optimism. Nobody can take away from him the part he played in silencing the Serb guns around the Bosnian capital. Although there have been serious violations in recent months and failures of strategy over Gorazde and Bihac, Sarajevo is still a safer place than it was when General Morillon went home.

Despite the sniping from critics in the United States and the Bosnian Government over allegations of bias towards the Serbs — his predecessors faced the same charge — as far as his men are concerned, General Rose has been a charismatic leader, travelling around meeting the troops with his huge bodyguard, nicknamed Goose.

General Smith, 51, has the same advantages as General Rose. Although he has not served in the SAS, he comes from another tough military background in the Parachute Regiment. He is tall, quietly spoken with a piercing gaze, and has an independent, sharp military mind. He is often described as a "soldier's soldier", and has combat experience. He led Britain's armoured division in the Gulf War and was credited with being one of the key strategic thinkers in the allied victory.

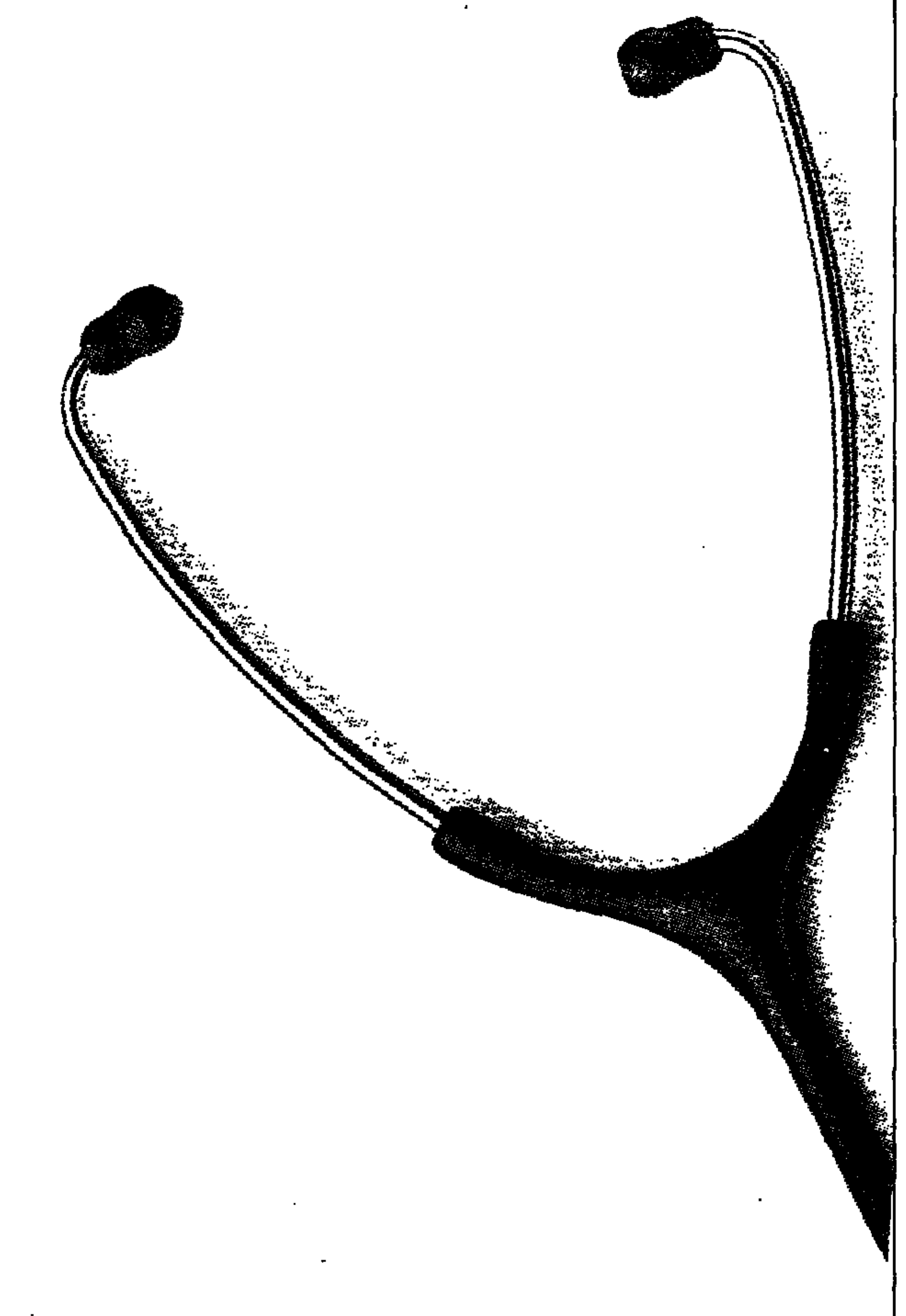
He has also been intimately involved in Britain's efforts in Bosnia, in his capacity as assistant chief of the defence staff (operations and plans).

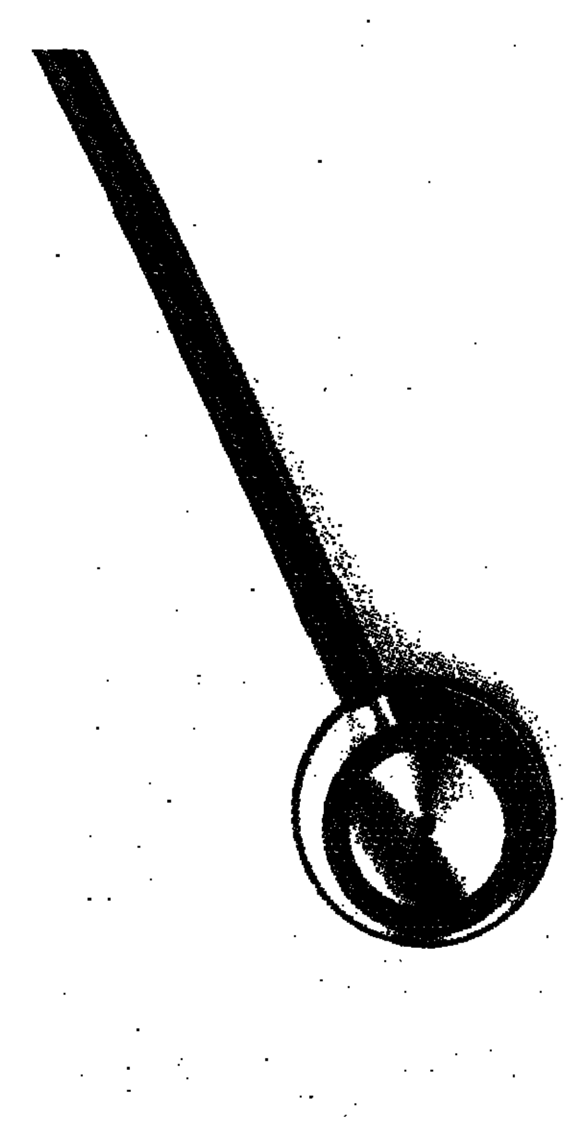
As commander in Bosnia from January 24, General Smith will need all his diplomatic skills to fulfil his UN mandate and cope with the political pressures from New York, Nato, Washington and all the "experts" who think they can do the job better than him. If the war deteriorates, he may have to mastermind the withdrawal of UN troops. If a peace agreement is reached, his role will switch to peacekeeping on a grand scale.

An intensely private man, he shuns publicity and was the least known of the British commanders in the Gulf. His inspirational leadership and charisma were such, however, that his troops used to say they would have followed him anywhere. After his success in the Gulf War, he won the DSO for his cool command under fire.

General Smith was educated at Haileybury, where he was noted as a boxer. He enlisted as a private in the Duke of Edinburgh's Regiment and was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment, of which he is now the Colonel Commandant. His professionalism, lively humour and critical attitude to military dogma quickly brought him to the attention of senior officers. One instructor said: "He had a calm, relaxed attitude and gave the impression that he always had something in reserve in critical situations."

Commanding a rifle company in Northern Ireland in 1978, he and a junior officer were injured in a car bomb attack. General Smith won the Queen's Gallantry Medal for pulling his fellow officer free without regard to his own safety and smothering the flames on his body.





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Latest Yeltsin move may herald purge of military

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW has ordered disciplinary action against officers involved in the military operation in Chechenia who refuse to obey orders.

In a move that could herald a purge of the armed forces, reports here said that state prosecutors had held an emergency meeting on Saturday to consider evidence against a group of officers, including generals, who are being investigated.

The decision appears to be an attempt by President Yeltsin, the commander-in-chief, to reimpose discipline in his forces and to quell the rising level of discontent in his officer corps. Angered by the disastrous and costly campaign in the Caucasus, senior officers have several times refused to send their men into action. At headquarters level, generals have been openly critical of the entire five-week military operation.

There have been several very public cases of insubordination. Only hours into the Russian advance on Grozny, Major-General Ivan Babichev, a paratroop commander in charge of an armoured column, halted its advance when his troops were confronted by unarmed local demonstrators and vowed not to wage war on civilians.

More recently, a detachment of Interior Ministry paramilitary troops, who had served for a month in Chechenia, abandoned their positions and returned to their headquarters in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg. They complained of bad leadership, appalling conditions and poor equipment.

In the latest incident, Major Yevgeni Zhoovtoripenko, a marine officer serving in Vladivostok, the headquarters of the Russian Pacific Fleet, refused to send his battalion of troops to Chechenia, insisting that they needed urban combat training before being sent into Grozny's streets.

Already President Yeltsin is considering taking personal command of the general staff, and has threatened to sack three Deputy Defence Ministers for their opposition to the way that the campaign has been carried out. One of them, Colonel-General Boris Gromov, who was the last commander of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, has refused to be cowed by the threat of dismissal. Last week, in his most critical attack of the operation, he described Russia's tactics as "barbaric military methods".

Wall of death: Chechen women take food into a bunker in Grozny yesterday

There are indications that the Kremlin is thinking of other ways to punish its opponents in the military without confonting them head-on. Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, the popular commander of the 14th Army based in Moldavia, is being investigated by a Ministry of Defence team, which many suspect could provide the authorities with an excuse for demoting him.

Nevertheless, a move against the generals would be difficult and dangerous. Certainly, if Mr Yeltsin does decide to punish his officers, he will almost certainly also have to dismiss General Pavel Grachev, his loyal Defence Minister, who is blamed by the Russian public, the press and the army rank and file for the poor planning of the Chechen campaign and the huge loss of life.

Also, the Russian leader will have to be careful not to push the demoralised military too far and run the risk of provoking a serious military rebellion against his leadership. Although experts discount the possibility of a military coup in Moscow itself since Mr Yeltsin is protected there by a huge security apparatus, there is perceived to be a very real threat of mutiny in outlying districts.

The Russian army has periodically risen against its political masters. Most famously in 1825, during the failed Decembrist uprising against the Tsar, and again in 1917, when disgruntled and unhappy troops returning from the front provided a catalyst for the Bolshevik Revolution.

Discipline pays for 'rag-tag guerrillas'

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN ALKHAN YURT

AS THE Russian assault on Grozny enters its third week, Western experts are asking how the apparently rag-tag Chechen militia has been able to fight for so long against what is still supposed to be one of the most powerful armies in the world.

A Ukrainian volunteer with the defending forces said: "The Chechens will eventually lose Grozny, but to have fought for so long against such odds means that history will say they were the victors."

A good deal of the Chechens' success is because of intense demoralisation on the Russian side, but they have a great deal to be proud of. The enigma is that the Chechen forces appear to have no organisation or discipline. Units elect their commanders, and individual fighters seem to come and go as they please.

Standing on the edge of the village of Alkhan Yurt, looking towards Russian positions less than two miles away, local volunteers explained that Chechen discipline was deeper and stronger than the Russians imagined.

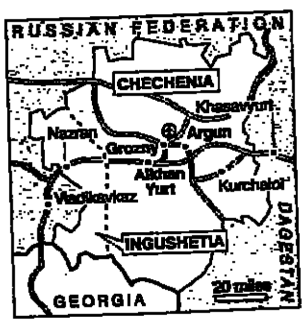
"We are on guard here in case the Russians make a move," said Idris, the group's leader. "If we see something, we fire three shots, and all the 300 or so volunteers in the village will grab their guns and be at their agreed positions within five minutes. The reason this works is that 100 per cent of the population are involved in the defence. Even if the Russians capture Grozny, they will have to fight for every village."

Idris, in peace time an oil refinery worker, said that all over Chechenia the Peoples' Volunteers elect their own commanders, or "elders". Individual volunteers in principle decide themselves when and where to serve, but "they can't just go off with their families whenever they like. The others in the group would not like it, and they would lose respect." He said that the people in every group of ten or 12 volunteers are usually neighbours, often from the same extended family.

Idris said that the Chechen armed forces also have a sort of command structure, made up of local staff, mostly drawn from men with experience in the Soviet or Russian armies.

Many Chechens are still privately strongly opposed to General Dzhokhar Dudayev's rule and a few are still refusing to fight for him.But most of the population appears to have been united by the Russian intervention.

One group of fighters said that a key element in the morale of most Chechens was the deportation of the whole population to Central Asia by Stalin in 1944. Their exile lasted 12 years and about a third died.



Hungarians top world gloom league

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUDAPEST

HUNGARIANS have confirmed their national stereotype as a maudlin bunch in a public opinion poll that identifies them as the most pessimistic country in the world.

Sixty-three per cent of respondents believe that this year will be worse than last. Only 7 per cent think this year will be better than 1994. Glorying in their dejection, Hungarians gave more pessimistic responses to all the questions except the possibility of a new world war.

In comparison, less than 40 per cent of the population of former socialist allies such as Georgia, racked by civil war, and Lithuania, faced by a disintegrating Russia, believe this year will be worse than last. The poll in the *Magyar Hirlap* newspaper, carried out by Gallup International and Mareco in Hungary, questioned 1,000 people in 50 countries.

Although Hungary has produced a string of talented writers and inventive thinkers, credited with items as diverse as the atomic bomb and the ballpoint pen, its citizens admit their tendency to depression is legendary. Hungarian rates of suicide, alcoholism and divorce are among the highest in the world.

The national anthem is full of melancholy, cataloguing most of the great failures and tragedies of Hungarian history. From the defeat by the Turks at the battle of Mohacs in 1526, commemorated every year, to the Treaty of Trianon in 1920, which saw Hungary lose two-thirds of its territory, Hungarian consciousness is filled with a sense of loss.

In fact, the picture is not all gloomy. While unemployment and inflation are taking their toll, and prices of fuel and other staples leapt at the start of the month, the country is one of the most advanced in Eastern Europe. Foreign investment has poured in and Hungary is poised to enter the European Union in perhaps five years' time.

The Optimists' Club, which claims to have 1,000 members, has decided to reverse the despondent trend with monthly meetings. "Politicians drill pessimism into the people," said Peter Berek, its spokesman. "If only there were one politician who was encouraging."

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THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

The great female artists of tomorrow? Visit the Festival Hall's "It's a *Pleasure*" show and decide for yourself

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ DANCE

Elegant fowl gather on the South Bank as English National Ballet revives *Swan Lake* for one week only

OPENS: Monday
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ MUSIC

Trumpet virtuoso Hakan Hardenberger prepares for a dazzling night at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

CONCERT: Monday
REVIEW: Wednesday

■ THEATRE

August Strindberg's *Dance of Death*, with John Neville and Gemma Jones, goes on stage at the Almeida

OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday

Disappointment for the oldsters

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** on a rare revival of William Walton's *Troilus and Cressida* in Leeds and (below) a touring double bill in Shrewsbury

There was some serious sorting out of sheep and goats among the audience at the Grand Theatre for the first night of Opera North's new production of Walton's opera on Saturday: who had, and who had not, been at the first run at Covent Garden 40 years ago? I count myself lucky to belong to the former category. It was the first opera I saw at Covent Garden, I loved it, and went *again and again (in those days a stall* cost 75p). *The Midsummer Marriage* was also in the repertory (ditto, ditto) and *The Turn of the Screw* was playing in London after its Venice premiere. Those were heady days for British opera. In another 40 years will people look back with similar nostalgia on *Gawain* and *Blond Eckbert*? I hope so.

Walton was notoriously discontented with the original production of *Troilus*. The conductor, Malcolm Sargent, apparently never really knew it, but I recall some thrilling end-of-run performances conducted by Reginald Goodall — all over the place but bursting with theatrical passion. The first Cressida, Magda Laszlo, looked gorgeous but her English was not consistently penetrable; Richard Lewis, both as Troilus and the tenor lead in the Tippett, was simply amazing; and as a study in high camp Peter Pears's berouged, fan-waving Pandarus was a collector's item. The fact that Walton composed the role that way speaks volumes about the politico-musical relations between Aldeburgh and Ischia.

The opera's post-history has not been happy. After productions in San Francisco, New York and Milan there was a lull. By the time of the 1963 revival at the Garden — the best series to date, with Marie Collier a wonderfully voluptuous Cressida — Walton had started to trim the score; by 1976, when he adapted Cressida to a mezzo tessitura for Janet Baker, around 25 minutes of music had been excised, and it was not a long opera in the first place. I thought and still think those cuts extremely ill-advised. The piece's structure suffers, transitions are jerky, and much of the missing music is very fine.

So what we oldsters were longing for in Leeds was a return to first base, an opportunity to hear the opera as originally conceived and to reassess *its merits. Alas, it was not to be:* what we were given was basically the 1976 revision, still with the cuts but with Cressida restored to the soprano range. In this, and many other respects, the evening was a severe disappointment.

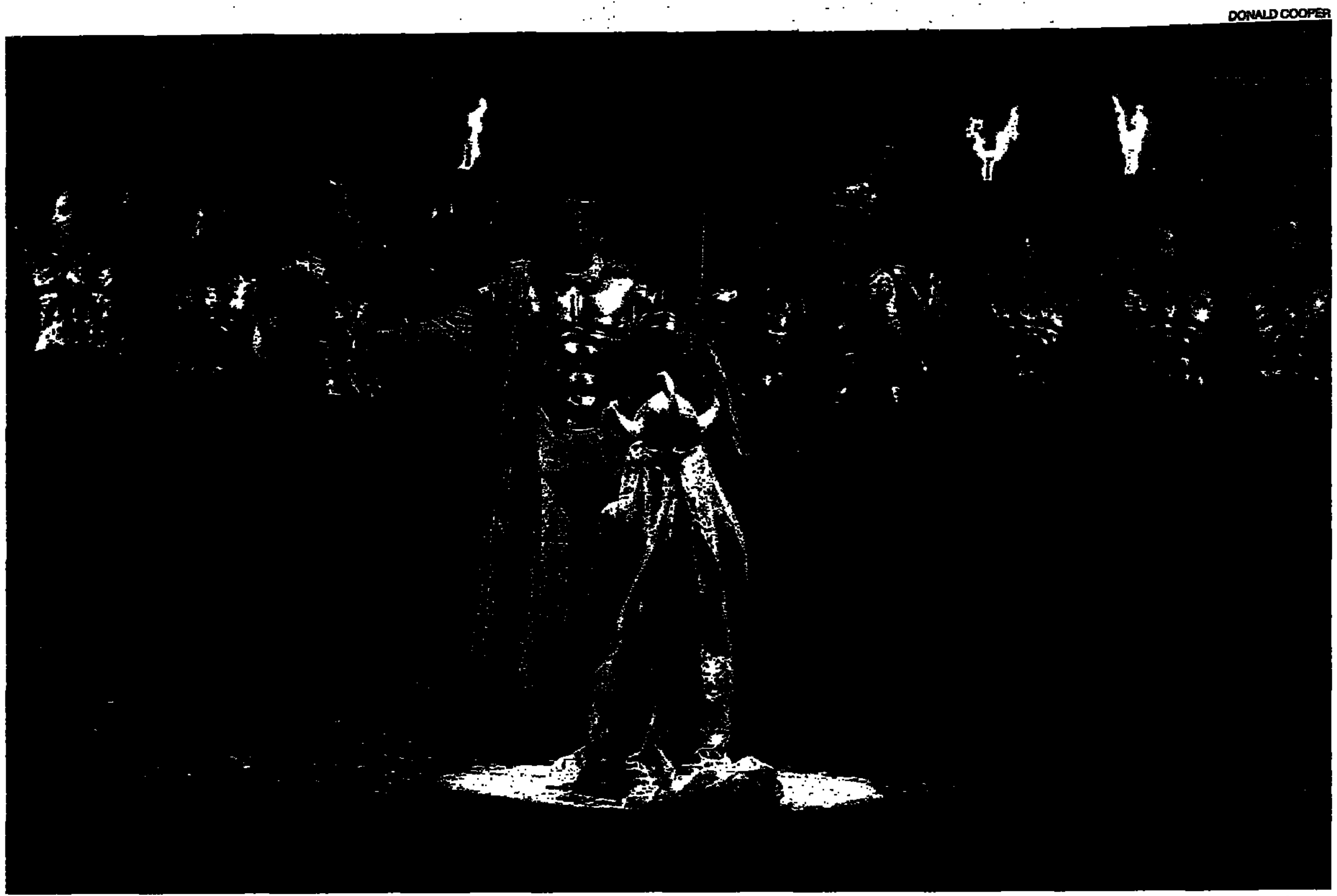
There are acres of gloriously melodious music in it

Does it matter? I think so. There are acres of gloriously melodious, exquisitely scored music in the piece, and all too few British composers have risked such blatantly erotic writing. It is a great big romantic opera — nothing wrong with that — and as such in the days of Darmstadt the music was sneered at in some quarters, as was Christopher *Hassall's somewhat flowery libretto.* Enough time has passed for both to be considered as period pieces on their own merits.

The music stands up perfectly well (though not consistently at this particular performance), and if some of Hassall's imagery and syntax is a little fustian, well, Walton set it all superbly, and watering it down in places does no one any favours. All right, if forced I will admit that the opera relies slightly too much on narrative values at the expense of character development, and the role of *Diomede is* dully composed. Otherwise, obstinately, I still love it.

And this despite Opera North's worst efforts. The production by Matthew Warchus — this was his first opera — in designs by Neil Warmington is too darksome an affair for a score radiating Mediterranean light and warmth. The blocking is efficient, and the handling of the chorus imaginative in the marvellous opening scene, but the principals seem to have been largely left to their own devices (i.e. standard operatic semaphore). It is a nice idea in *principle to leave the curtain up for* the second-act interlude, but what happens on the bed could not approach what the music is depicting without the police closing the theatre down. Better to close the curtains.

DONALD COOPER



Opera North's new *Troilus and Cressida*: Matthew Warchus's production is too darksome an affair for a score radiating Mediterranean light and warmth

The cast is not quite strong enough. For Cressida you need a Tosca at least, which Judith Howarth isn't. Her lovely light-lyric soprano couldn't always penetrate the orchestral fabric, especially in the middle register. Nigel Robson's "straight" Pandarus doesn't begin to work, neatly though he sings; I know in *these politically correct times* we want to avoid insulting stereotypes, but the role was written to be camp, and that's that. At least Arthur Davies had the scale of his role, hurling out Troilus's raptures with no great subtlety but at appropriate volume. Alan Opie did what could be done with Diomede, and Clive Bayley's Calkas was baleful enough to deserve the immediate restoration of his first-act narrative.

In the pit, Richard Hickox chose dangerously slow tempos, *missing the music's exhilarating impetus and allowing the conversational passages* to flag. The third act was very slow indeed, stretching poor Miss Howarth — and the opera — to the limit. The orchestral textures could have been airier. The chorus was the collective star of the show.

DONALD COOPER

Repressed sexuality: Roz Paul as Laura in Aaron Jay Kernis's fine musical adaptation of "Goblin Market"

Colourful and decadent

Goblin Market/ The Soldier's Tale
Music Hall,
Shrewsbury

Christina Rossetti's poem "Goblin Market" is so vivid a Victorian hymn to the dark undertow of repressed sexuality that it is a wonder it has not attracted more composers. Music is a *particularly potent medium* for suggesting "the hidden life that stirs when the candle is out".

The American composer Aaron Jay Kernis has certainly plugged the gap. His new music-theatre piece was commissioned jointly by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and the St Paul Chamber Orchestra of Minnesota, and given its premiere on Thursday by BCMG in association with Trestle Theatre Company in the Music Hall, Shrewsbury. The production is now touring the North, reaches London (Queen Elizabeth Hall) on Thursday and Birmingham next Sunday.

Kernis has scored his setting for a Britten-esque chamber ensemble of 13, plus narrator. The fact that it often sounds like a symphony orchestra in full cry is tribute enough to his skill in instrumentation: the range of colour extracted from the players is quite bewildering. His musical language could be described as neo-decadent. Glutinous of texture, over-ripe of harmony, tortuous of phrase, his score oozes corruption in a way that makes early Korngold sound positively wholesome. The late, Hollywood Korngold also springs to mind in the rapturously tonal, "affirmative" final pages, but all that goes before catches to perfection the hot-house of Christina Rossetti's imagination and the forbidden fruits purveyed therein.

So far, so very good, but the form of the 40-minute piece is *melodrama* in the strict sense of words spoken over music. The narrator (Barry Wilsher) reads Rossetti, the band goes ape with the sub-text underneath — or, here, over the top. The form has always been problematical. In opera, words and music are, as it were, part of the same image; in *melodrama* they are not, and each listener has to make a conscious choice as to which takes precedence. Here the narrator was often inaudible, because he was amplified (not in spite of it), so the choice was easy: Kernis won over Rossetti in a way that he cannot have intended. But if the work is not a complete success, Kernis's music is so vibrantly theatrical in shape and sound that he should have opera managements queueing at his door with commissions.

The musical side of the performance was extremely impressive, the young conductor Daniel Harding and his *players showing complete* command of a highly complex score. But, sadly, the theatrical side was near-amateurish, with a crass "contemporary" framework of two thin slags talking about sex in a fruit-'n'-veg warehouse, goblins no more frightening than Muppets, and a fairly straight mimed narration. Kernis's music demands more imaginative visual response.

Goblin Fair is being given in a double-bill with a revival of BCMG's *The Soldier's Tale*. Here again, Trestle's cumbersome framing device suggesting that Stravinsky was telling "a modern-day parable of greed and the 'have now, pay later' philosophy of the '90s" tested my patience, and *for all the skill of Paul* Griffiths's translation and the brilliance of the playing under Harding, this fragile piece long outstayed its welcome.

Onassis legacy

IMPOVERISHED playwrights (is that tautologous?), will be intrigued by the announcement that the **Onassis Foundation**, in Athens has inaugurated an international competition, for the writing of new drama "dealing with the problems facing man on the threshold of the 21st century". The most intriguing part, perhaps, is the prize money: $250,000, $200,000 and $150,000 respectively *for the three best entries.* Entries should be received by June 30, 1996; the decision will be made the following year. Further information can be obtained from the Greek Embassy in London.

● BY NOW everyone probably knows that **Nigel Hawthorne** won't be appearing on the Queen's Theatre stage in *The Clandestine Marriage* tonight and tomorrow. He is in New York drumming up Oscar interest for his performance in *The Madness of King George* in advance of the nominations on February 14. (He returns by Concorde tomorrow afternoon, well in time for Wednesday's performance.) But Hawthorne is treating the matter with characteristic modesty. "My big joy would be if Nick [director **Nicholas Hytner**] got one," Hawthorne asserts. "I think he's got a golden talent."

Meanwhile, don't hold your breath waiting for Hawthorne to play Lear for director **Declan Donnellan**, as had been rumoured. "It was two years ago *that* Declan broached the subject, and I've been running away from it ever since. I don't think he knows that, but I have, so that's definitely not a next thing."

● CHEERED by the success of her 1992 hits compilation *Back To Basics*, **Olivia Newton-John** was planning a return to live concerts when she learnt she had breast cancer. Now, having recovered from therapy, she has released *Gaia: One Woman's Journey* (D Sharp Records), a self-written album that chronicles those changes in her life and attitudes wrought by the illness.

● THIS could be a vintage year for **Stephen Sondheim** in London if discussions work out. Following already announced productions of *A Little Night Music* (at the National) and *Passion* (in the West End), the prospect of a Donmar Warehouse revival of *Company* is being mooted. It would be directed by Sam Mendes, who began his Donmar regime with Sondheim's *Assassins*.

● THE intriguing choice to join **Kathleen Turner** in the first Broadway production of Jean Cocteau's *Les Parents Terribles* is **Eileen Atkins**. Atkins has a current New York *hit opposite* Vanessa Redgrave in *Vita and Virginia*. She will finish that play on March 19 and start right into rehearsals for the Cocteau, which opens on April 27 under the title *Indiscretions*. The role is that of the spinster sister, played last summer at the National in London by **Frances de la Tour**. **Sean Mathias** again directs.

Olivia Newton-John: a happy recovery

● *TRENDY* touring company **Mecklenburgh Opera** has been awarded a £10,000 grant by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation specifically to encourage female opera composers *and librettists.* The grant will enable Mecklenburgh to establish a residency at this year's Dartington Summer School, where writers will be able to work experimentally with performers.

● PLAYWRIGHT, recent autobiographer and *now* performer, **Arnold Wesker** will present a one-man reading of *Wesker's Women* at the Royal Court Theatre in London on February 5. A cycle of six plays in which the author takes all parts, it has already been delivered to acclaim as far afield as Oslo and Caracas. "Bring a picnic," the theatre invites *those* seeking tickets for the six-hour marathon.

CONCERTS: A procession of rising instrumental stars; and John Eliot Gardiner's superb revelation of Beethoven

Vivid voices of youth

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

WEDNESDAY night at the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Concerts was the night of a Greek pianist, Nicolaos Laaris, a British flautist, Gareth Davies, and a Bulgarian percussionist, Daniella Ganeva. All three showed a degree of imagination in the choice of repertoire, although as always the quality of it varied. One still has the feeling that for many young musicians anything that provides enough of a technical challenge is deemed worthy of performance.

But there have been duller evenings at the PLG than this one, and these players all had positive things to offer. Actually, in Davies's case a career is already well in the making. He plays as a freelance for many London orchestras, writes jingles and pop songs, and cannily sells himself as a *jaunty, friendly and witty* young lad, sporting natty waistcoat and a readily avowed affection for Jimi Hendrix. Any other resemblance to our Nige is purely coincidental.

If the four pieces he played from Robert Dick's *Flying Lessons*, volumes 1 and 2, strictly occupied the camp of technical studies, they did so in an appealing way, and they certainly proved that Davies is a most accomplished player. As did Thea Musgrave's beautiful *Narcissus* for flute and (self-operated) digital delay, where subtle tonal variety and elegant shaping of phrase was the order of the day.

Ganeva inevitably has far greater problems with repertoire. Her first ploy was to turn to the music of a compatriot, Emil Handjiev, whose *Studio for vibraphone* was just one of those display pieces. Another hopeful port of call was Japan: Tanaka's less than imaginatively titled Two Movements for marimba — "full of rhythmic drive", as Ganeva's note said, but with little else — and Keiko Abe's *Dream of the Cherry Blossoms*, a pretty little thing.

Far more encouraging was Ganeva's choice of Frederick Rzewski's *To the Earth*, a setting of a Homeric hymn, spoken by the soloist, with four earthenware flowerpots, carefully selected for their pitches, as her only instruments. Basic, perhaps, but a wonderfully evocative ritual.

That leaves Laaris, the early evening piano recitalist. Here is a fine artist, one incapable of making an ugly sound even in a work as full of notes as Boulez's early *Notations* or Skalkottas's *15 Little Variations*, works written nearly two decades apart (1945 and 1927 respectively) but which have a surprising amount in common.

To end there was the Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla's Sonata No 1 (1945) and Suite No 3 (1950), both beautifully textured designs, neo-Classical in caste but Latin American in exuberance.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Fantasy realised at last

ORR/Gardiner
St John's,
Smith Square

THINGS fell totally apart at the first performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*. The piece had been completed too late for proper rehearsal: Beethoven further offended the orchestra by demanding a fresh start. John Eliot Gardiner's Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique stopped short in their strivings for authenticity before quite such a pass had been reached; but, in every other aspect, they recreated a sense of occasion every bit the equal of that first Beethoven bonanza in the Theater an der Wien in 1808.

Beethoven's curious hybrid — that ecstatic forerunner of the finale of the Ninth Symphony — had been planned as a grand finale to a long showcase evening of his works. The composer was to integrate a piano improvisation of his own into a piece for choir and orchestra. In seating Robert Levin, classical improviser and embellisher extra*ordinaire, at a restored 1815* fortepiano, and ranging the ORR around him, Eliot Gardiner raised the work from what has seemed like a long, uneasy sleep.

John Eliot Gardiner: a faultless sense of occasion

The shorter, tougher resonance of the fortepiano's chords, the greater luminosity of its high notes, the real sense of traversal from bottom to top of its range made new sense of the scoring. The orchestral instruments, in turn, responded with palpable excitement. And the Monteverdi Choir sang of the harmonies of life and the music of the spheres as if — just like on that first night — the words had come hot off the press.

Concertos don't come much more *revolutionnaire et romantique* than Beethoven's "Emperor". Even those familiar with this orchestra's new Beethoven symphony cycle could hardly have been prepared for the revelations of this performance. It was fast, yes; it was meticulously edited; and there were cross-rhythms where you had never heard them before. But, once more, it was that sense of music being rolled off, red hot, from the composer's mind which was so uniquely exciting about Levin's performance.

HILARY FINCH

هكذا على الأصل

■ BOOKS

Remembering his own "dance to the music of time": Anthony Powell opens his *Journals, 1982-86*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

■ OPERA

Frocks by Armani, *music by Mozart:* a haute-couture *Cosi fan tutte* for Covent Garden

OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

■ FILM

Interview with the Vampire, Neil Jordan's first film since *The Crying Game*, hits the British screen

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ POP

"Jumpin'" Joe Jackson *reminds Hammersmith* Apollo about his prodigious and unclassifiable talent

GIG: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: The obscure demystified by time's passing; badly bowdlerised James and Anouilh

Barker with less of a bite

The Castle
Riverside Studios

The Wrestling School would seem to be the only British theatre company devoted to producing the work of just one dramatist; and, no, I have not forgotten the Royal Shakespeare Company. The Bard is, so to speak, the RSC's middle-of-the-day meal, but not always its breakfast, tea or supper. For the Wrestling School, though, Howard Barker is all that and more. There are no fewer than three of his pieces in the enormous hamper the company is taking round the country and overseas: *Hated Nightfall*, *Judith* and the big, unwieldy play the RSC itself first staged in 1985, *The Castle*. I caught Kenny Ireland's revival as it passed through west London on its way to Nottingham, Paris and Berlin, and, as often before, began with a hopeful flip through his programme notes. Barker, Ireland promised, was going to cascade over our senses. He would not satisfy our demands for clarity nor give us "the deceptive simplicity of a single meaning". His was a theatre of "emotional and linguistic seduction, secret, complex, sometimes fugitive; a tidal effect of beauty and violence".

Not much of a crib, is it? With all that talk of cascades and tidal effects, it sounds more like an invitation to a drowning. Yet the odd thing is that a second viewing of *The Castle* shows it to be a pretty accessible piece. True, the characters talk in Barkerese, that weird mix of the overblown and the demotic, rococo and kitchen sink. True, they go off at emotional tangents and do eccentric things, like forming new churches or wandering about with corpses chained to their torsos. But much is simple, and not all that deceptively so.

Home come Crusaders, to find their estate transformed by their women into an aspiring utopia, all social equality and sexual liberation. But they have brought back the masculine principles, among them anger, violence, reason, logic and maths. Abetted by Krak, an embittered Arab engineer, the natural contours of the hillside are replaced by angular fortifications and those of the community by discipline, rigour and, eventually, totalitarianism.

Barker is talking up women, badmouthing male hierarchies and, rather less predictably, satirising the arms race. Sean Baker's steely, aloof Krak continually exploits the paranoia of his employer, James Clyde's yobbishly whining Stucley. More and more walls surround higher and higher towers as news comes of even more formidable fortresses in the country beyond; and it is clear that the process will be both unending and self-defeating. Every improvement in the castle actually provokes its enemies to devise new ways of destroying it.

Has the demise of the Cold War dated the play? It would be wishful thinking to say so. For me, the problem is that it seems less richly imaginative than when I saw it ten years ago. It is mainly to be recommended to Barker groupies and fans of the troupers gallantly wrestling with his work.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Keith Osborn and Sean Baker in *The Castle*, a play "for Barker groupies and fans of the troupe gallantly wrestling with his work"

Innocent of all interest

The Innocents
Haymarket, Basingstoke

HELL, why not just retitle it *The Really Bad*? *The Innocents* is the reworking of *The Turn Of The Screw*, Henry James's gripping ghost story of good and evil, bowdlerised by William Archibald and now made worse by dully naive direction. Adrian Reynolds's staging is psychologically muddy and stylistically stale.

Furthermore, the children whom the governess Miss Giddens believes she is shielding from evil are no innocents in the first place. Catherine Holman's Flora is pure brat. She acts the ten-year-old by prancing about with piston-driven knees, holding forth so shrilly that only dogs can tune into some of the dear child's conversation.

Sarah Brightman, as Miss Giddens, hardly gives a glowing performance. Certainly, she makes no bones about conveying the erotic attraction she feels for the absent master and, subsequently, the spectre of his wicked valet Quint, formerly entrusted with young Miles. But there is confusingly little sense of her crucial infatuation with her wards and her escalating possessiveness. The only thing being stifled during this production is a yawn.

Mainly, Brightman displays her many costumes and her ornate hair. She also enunciates so primly that you would think her life depended upon it.

The lack of suspense was killing me. Peter Quint stares in through the French windows with all the ominousness of a man waiting for a bus. In any case, his hanging around unseen by Miss Giddens totally misses James's insinuations that the sexually suspect phantoms, craving to get their hands on the children, may all be in the mind of the fallible, if not pathological, narrator-governess.

Among the adult cast, it is Edward James Crangle, still a schoolboy, who catches the attention. His Miles recaptures James's radical complexity with a provocative blend of coldness, come-on and fledgeling camp. It is a crying shame that the rest of the production feels so dated when *The Turn Of The Screw* reads with such uncanny contemporary relevance, concerned with paedophilia, sealed lips, paranoid protectiveness and anxious scrutiny seeing corruption where none exists.

KATE BASSETT

Time best forgotten

Leocadia
New End, Hampstead

IF A producer, a director, a designer, a lighting designer, a composer and a translator had sat down and planned how to wreck a charming play by Anouilh, they could not have made it more of a ruin than this wretched show, put on by an outfit called Generation X.

Older theatregoers may remember it as *Time Remembered* in the production by William Chappell starring Paul Scofield, Margaret Rutherford and Mary Ure, in her stage debut, back in the Fifties. They will recall that it tells of a rich prince who fell in love with an eccentric, orchid-chewing singer named Leocadia, who accidentally strangled herself on her scarf three days after they met.

His fond aunt (the Rutherford part) transports to her park the nightclub, the inn, the taxi and other items connected with their brief association, and the prince wanders forlornly between them in the hope of recapturing his lost rapture. She then engages a simple-hearted milliner, who happens to bear a striking likeness to the dead Leocadia, in the hope that her nephew will turn from the wraiths of the past to love a real person.

It is an elegant fairy story, wistful, witty, technically brilliant and containing sufficient good common sense to give body to the airy fantasy. And Generation X destroys it.

Instead of using the pleasant translation by Patricia Moyes in the Methuen edition, a banal version by Timberlake Wertenbaker has been preferred. The play is one of Anouilh's *pièces roses*, and this production's approach to the language is so cloth-eared that they can call it a pink play. Perhaps Wertenbaker or Jonathan Cognac (director) or Sophia Ashen (producer) talk of pink-tinted spectacles, but the rest of us don't.

Ashen also plays Amanda, the young milliner, and gives a very poor performance indeed, limp in posture, vocally unexciting. Matthew Radford makes a more creditable job of the sombre prince.

Lighting, that can do so much even on a low budget, here does nothing. Music, composed by Dori Parnes, blasts you out of your seat. Avoid.

JEREMY KINGSTON

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

DANGEROUS CORNER: Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Jan 19, 7pm, until Mar 11.

SWAN LAKE: Raissa Struchkova gives a fine reworking to the old Bolshoi Ballet version for English National Ballet — in London for one week only. Despite a recent injury, Agnes Oaks and Thomas Edur are scheduled to appear as the lovers.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

BIRTWISTLE PREMIERE: Elgar Howarth conducts a world premiere for the London Philharmonic's composer-in-residence: Harrison Birtwistle's *The Cry of Anubis* is part of tonight's celebration of modern music. The programme also includes more Birtwistle plus Gabrieli and two versions of Stravinsky's Symphonies of wind instruments. Trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger is the soloist.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The veteran tenor **Nicolai Gedda**, particularly known for an exceptional register, joins Carlo Rizzi and the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera tonight for a programme of arias and operetta evergreens from *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *The Merry Widow* and *The Gypsy Baron*.
***Symphony Hall**, Broad Street* (021-212 3333). Tonight, 8pm. Ⓢ

CHELTENHAM: ***London City Ballet*** leaps into its spring season with Galina Samsova's *highly acclaimed staging of Giselle*. Later in the week, a new programme premieres which includes Ashton's *Tweedledum and Tweedledee*, the lakeside scene from *Swan Lake*, David Lichine's *Graduation Ball* to music by Johann Strauss, and a selection of showpiece duets.
Everyman, Regent Street (0242 572573). Tonight-Wed and Fri-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

EDINBURGH: Another spring season also opens this week as the *Royal* Lyceum presents **On Golden Pond**. Caroline Hall directs Ernest Thompson's lesson in "how to grow old", with Eileen McCallum, Thane Bettany and James Mackenzie.
Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street (031-229 9697). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Jan 21, 25 and 28, 3.15pm. Until Feb 4. Ⓢ

MOLD: Last year's London revival of Anna Reynold's **Jordan** opens a *deserved tour tonight. Moira Buffini* delivers a gripping monologue about a mother on trial for murdering her child. You will hang on to every word. Fiona Buffini directs.
Emlyn Williams, Theatr Clwyd (0352 755114). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

***British Museum:** Mexican Gallery*; New European Applied Arts Galleries (071-636 1555) ... **Royal Festival Hall**: It's a Pleasure!: nine contemporary artists (071-928 3002) . **National Portrait Gallery**: The Sitwells, final week; Christina Rossetti (071-306 0055) ... ***Royal Academy**: The Painted* Page, final week (071-439 7438) . ***Tate**: Clore Gallery* (071-887 8000) ... **V&A**: Nehru Gallery; Streetstyle (071-938 8500) ... **Whitechapel**: Worlds in a Box (071-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- **■ House full, returns only**
- **◩ Some seats available**
- **☐ Seats at all prices**

◩ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: The Fats Waller musical show: an evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song and dance.
***Tricycle**, Kilburn High Rd, NW6* (071-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

◩ **THE DANCE OF DEATH**: Rare *stage appearance by John Neville as* Strindberg's infuriated husband, with Gemma Jones playing his comparably furious wife. Directed by Peter Stormare.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Now previewing, 8pm; opens tomorrow, 7pm. Until Mar 4. Ⓢ

◩ **FEVER PITCH**: The one-man show adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling account of a lifelong obsession — some would say inexplicable — with Arsenal FC. Stephen North takes us through 45 minutes each way.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (071-836 2132). *Previews begin tonight*, 8pm. Opens Jan 19.

◩ **GHOST SONATA**: Fascinating production of Strindberg's dream-like drama of corruption and fear, performed by Sweden's Marionetteatern *with top-hatted actors and exquisite* puppets. Part of the London International *Mime Festival*
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight-Wed, 8pm.

◩ **GRIMM TALES**: Tim Supple's superb staging of *these really* bloodthirsty tables. An amazing *evening. Unforgettable.*
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Today, 1.30pm. Until Sat; final week. Ⓢ

■ **THE MAN OF MODE**: Etherege's wittiest comedy: sex, style and even some true love. David Westhead as Dorimant, Tim Potter as *Sir Fopling* Flutter. Max Stafford-Clark directs. In rep with *The Libertine*.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). *Tonight*, 7.30pm

■ **OLIVER!**: Lavish revival of Bart's merry musical. Low on social comment, big on tunes. Jonathan Pryce as Fagin.
Palladium, Argyll St, W1 (071-494 5020). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN**: Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Anastasia Hille show how youthful high spirits petrify into grim old age. Superb performances in Albee's drama.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◩ ***TWO WEEKS WITH THE QUEEN:*** Play for family audiences adapted from *Morris Gleitzman's* excellent story of a 12-year-old boy who learns about death and the value of family love. Ayckbourn directs.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (071-930 8800) ☐ **Beautiful Thing**: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) ... ☐ ***Blood* Brothers**: Phoenix (071-867 1044) ... ☐ ***Buddy**: Victoria Palace* (071-834 1317) ... ☐ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) ... ☐ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) ... ☐ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) ... ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ◩ **Grease**: Dominion (071-416 6060) ☐ **Hamlet**: Gielgud (071-494 5065) ... ◩ **An Inspector Calls**: Aldwych (071-836 6404) ... ◩ ***Les Misérables**:* Palace (071-434 0909) ... ◩ **Miss Saigon**: *Theatre Royal* (071-494 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... ☐ **Neville's Island**: Apollo (071-494 5070) ... ☐ **On Approval**: Playhouse (071-839 4401) ☐ **Once on This Island**: Island (Royalty), (071-494 5090) ... ☐ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (071-369 1731) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: *Her Majesty's* (071-494 5400) ☐ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**: *Strand* (071-930 8800) ... ☐ **The Queen and I**: Vaudeville (071-836 9987) ... ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (071-836 8888) ... ☐ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic (071-928 7616) ... ☐ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (071-344 0055) ... ☐ **Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

EAT DRINK MAN WOMAN (PG): Delectable mosaic of Taipei family life *from the director of The Wedding Banquet*, Ang Lee.
Chelsea (071-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (071-369 1722) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/Hill** (071-435 3366)

◆ **KILLING ZOE** (18): Callous and showy bank robbery tale, with Eric Stoltz and Jean-Hugues Anglade. Written and directed by Roger Avary.
MGMs: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** *(0426 915353)* **Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** *(0426 914098)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (071-437 4343)

◆ **NOSTRADAMUS** (15): Life and *prophecies of the 16th-century legend*. Preposterous Euro-pudding, with Tcheky Karyo and Amanda Plummer.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau.
Curzon Mayfair (071-369 1720) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914666) ***Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098)*

TOTALLY F*ED UP:** Doleful, zero-budget experimental film about six gay LA teenagers. Director, Gregg Araki.
ICA Ⓢ (071-930 3647)

CURRENT

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES (15): Unwieldy version of Tom Robbins's zany novel from cult director Gus Van Sant. Uma Thurman heads a cameo-strewn cast.
Electric Ⓢ (071-792 2020/0328) **Metro** (071-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561) ***Screen/Baker Street*** (071-935 2772)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG): Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant. With Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito. Director, Ivan Reitman.
Empire (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) ***Trocadero*** Ⓢ *(071-434 0031)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332)

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18): Enjoyably amoral tale of sex, power and $700,000, with *Linda Fiorentino as the* femme fatale to end them all. Director, *John Dahl*.
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

◆ **PRINCESS CARABOO** (PG): Airy, amusing historical diversion, with Phoebe Cates as the mysterious girl believed to be a Far Eastern princess. *With Jim Broadbent, John Lithgow,* Stephen Rea, Wendy Hughes. *Director,* Michael Austin.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (071-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

SHALLOW GRAVE (18): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums *and a corpse loaded* with money. Danny Boyle directs Kerry Fox, Christopher Eccleston and Ewan McGregor.
Gate Ⓢ (071-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** *(071-636 6148)* **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) ***Screen/Green*** (071-226 3520) **Warner** Ⓢ (071-437 4343)

◆ **THE SPECIALIST** (15): Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester *Stallone to avenge her parents' murder.* Empty concoction that wastes its stars. *With James Woods*, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa.
Clapham Picture House (071-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (071-727 6705) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (071-437 4343)

◆ **STARGATE** (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; with Jaye Davidson.
Clapham Picture House (071-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Chelsea** (071-352 5096) ***Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666)* **Leicester Square** (0426-915 683) ***Marble Arch** (0426 914501)* **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (071-792 3332)

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صكنا من الاجل

Would the reintroduction of an ancient species in Scotland be a mistake? ☐ The small family of man ☐ Flying airliners in formation

Wolves may roam Rhum

THE release of eight wolves in Yellowstone National Park in the Rocky Mountains of the United States is a landmark for conservationists, who argue that a wilderness without its wildest creature is a poor sort of place. Eight wolves rounded up in western Alberta had been waiting the outcome of the latest of a series of court battles before their release last week.

For the moment, they remain in a large pen acclimatising for a month before being given complete freedom, the court permitting. Another four wolves are to be released directly into a wilderness area in central Idaho.

The rhetoric that greeted their reintroduction to Yellowstone would have sounded strange to the American pioneers, who did their best to slaughter wolves. "This is a day of redemption and a day of hope," the Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, said. "There is room in the West for cattle and cowboys, for grizzlies and wolves, for salmon and cut-throat trout."

SCIENCE BRIEFING

◆

Nigel Hawkes

The release is a fascinating experiment, which might be followed up in Britain. Under the European Union's Species and Habitats Directive, the Government has to examine the possibility of returning lost species to their natural environment. We British, no slouches at exterminating wildlife, knocked off our last wolf in 1743.

The most likely new home for the wolf is the Isle of Rhum, off the west coast of Scotland. It would be a lot less controversial to release the creatures there than on the mainland, even though farmers fear they might swim the channel to Scotland proper and start preying on sheep. Very unlikely, retorts Derek Yalden, of the University of Manchester, a friend of the wolf.

A long-term study on Isle Royale National Park, in Lake Superior, has shown that wolves would certainly alter the ecosystem if they were released on Rhum, and in ways that are not immediately obvious. For example, the study shows that one important beneficiary is the trees, mostly balsam firs on Isle Royale.

The health of the trees is largely determined by the number of moose, which graze on them. Many moose make weak trees, because they eat the foliage and suppress growth. But when wolves are plentiful, the moose numbers are reduced by predation and the trees do well.

The result has implications for the way ecosystems work. There are two theories. One says that the number of plants at the base of the food chain determines the population of all other creatures; this is the classical view, to be found in the textbooks. Alas, it does not seem to work on Isle Royale.

There, say Rolf Peterson and Brian McLaren, of the Michigan Technological University, "top-down" regulation seems to apply. The productivity of the ecosystem is determined by its top predator.

Would this work on Rhum? It has lots of deer for the wolves to eat, but too few trees, and it is small, only a fifth the size of Isle Royale. When wolves were released on a small island in Alaska, they saw off the resident sitka deer, turned in desperation to rats and birds and eventually to eating each other. That isn't at all what the conservationists had in mind.

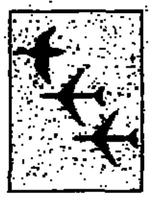
Survival

WAS mankind once as endangered as the mountain gorilla is today? That is the claim made by some anthropologists, based on studies that show just how small is the genetic variation between different members of the human race.

We may think that we are all very different, but our genes tell a different story. Any two people from different ends of the Earth have genes more nearly identical to one another than do two gorillas from the same West African forest. The only reasonable explanation for this is that we must be descended from relatively few ancestors. Suppose that an ancient population of 100,000 humans suffered a catastrophe that reduced their numbers to about 10,000, from which they painfully recovered.

This "genetic bottleneck" would mean that we would all share a limited number of genetic variations. Analysis of genetic diversity, carried out principally by Naoyuki Takahata, of the Graduate University for Advanced Studies in Japan, and his collaborator Jan Klein, has shown what the population was when the "genetic squeeze" took place. Their conclusion, reported in *Science*, is that some time between 400,000 and 800,000 years ago populations fell to 10,000 and stayed at that level until about 12,000 years ago, when the great expansion began.

On the wing



HERE is a novel way to cut congestion in the air. Dr Lloyd Jenkinson, of Loughborough University, says that we should borrow a technique from flights of geese and fly planes in close formation.

The idea of crossing the Atlantic wing-tip to wing-tip may daunt the faint-hearted, but not Dr Jenkinson. He says that the aircraft should be linked together electronically, and controlled by the leader. Then every movement of the leading plane would be faithfully mimicked by its partners and air traffic control would be able to treat them as a single aircraft. Civil aircraft are usually separated by four miles.

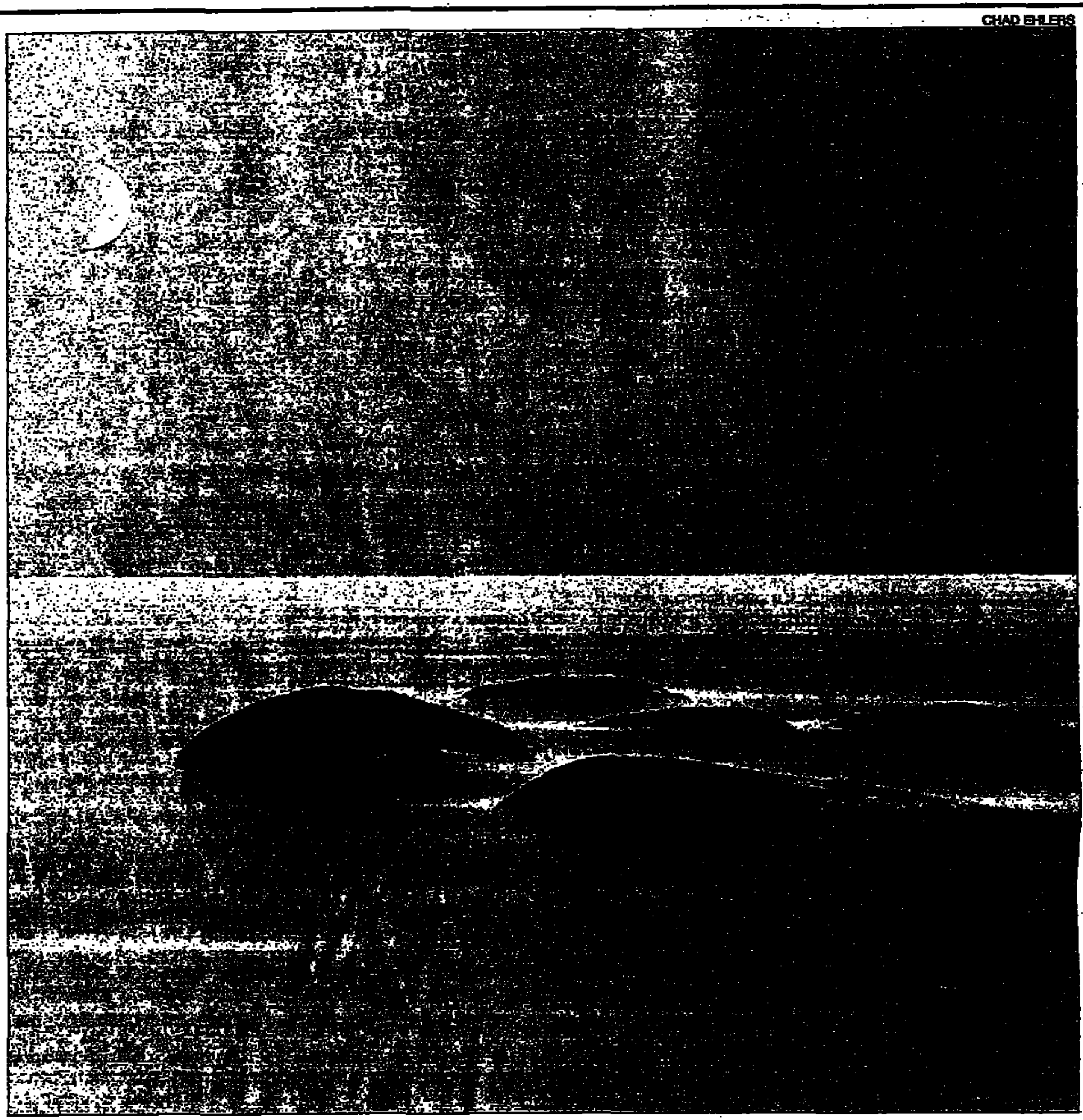
Why not just build bigger aircraft? We could, but they would need new airfields. Two 400-seaters in convoy would also have safety advantages. One might crash, costing 400 lives. But it is unlikely that both would, so the toll would be less than a superjumbo with 800 seats.

There is also the matter of drag. Geese fly in convoy because it gives them lower drag, the air disturbed by the leader reducing drag on the followers, like the *peloton* in the Tour de France. Experiments with real aircraft show a 10 per cent fuel saving from formation flying.

What about landing and takeoff? These would have to be done in convoy, too, or the advantages would be lost. It may seem a far-fetched notion, but Dr Jenkinson is serious, and so is the university. It has patented the idea and is looking for industrial partners to help to exploit it.

Another giant step for mankind?

Europe and America may combine to revisit the surface of the Moon to unlock its secrets, says **Martin Ince**



CHAD EHLERS

The Moon pictured from the Earth — its surface could give scientists invaluable information about the solar system

Since Apollo 17 left the Moon in December 1972, lunar exploration has become a neglected art. But now plans for a return to the Moon, at first by machines and perhaps later by people, are being made in Europe and the United States.

One of the few of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative projects to have come to fruition is Clementine, a space mission designed to test technology for spacecraft operations in high radiation environments — like those beyond the Earth, or during a nuclear war.

Clementine cost only $55 million (£36.6 million), plus $20 million for its launch rocket. It also took only two years to get from concept stage to its launch in January 1992. And without touching the surface of the Moon, it added a vast amount to our knowledge of the lunar surface.

The Moon footprint left by Neil Armstrong in 1969

For the lunar scientist, the joy of Clementine is that it became the first spacecraft of the microchip era to go to the Moon. Despite weighing only 230kg, it was able to send home two million images of the Moon, in visible and infrared light, in 71 days in lunar orbit, as well as detailed laser measurements of the Moon's shape.

This data has renewed debate on the internal composition of the Moon, and on the history of its surface. The Earth is geologically active and its surface is comparatively recent, but the face of the Moon tells us about the early days of our solar system, making it a valuable laboratory for fundamental science.

Colin Pillinger, of the Open University's planetary sciences unit, who worked with Apollo Moon rock in the early 1970s, is completing a paper on possible follow-ups to Clementine which he will present at a conference supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Nasa, of the United States, in April.

"It is now possible to do good science about the Moon as well as on the Moon, and to think about what would be involved in using the Moon for human habitation," he says.

Science on the Moon might include using it as a site for giant telescopes in calm, airless surroundings. But Professor Pillinger is more excited by the prospect of instruments capable of carrying out scientific investigations in near-laboratory conditions on the Moon.

He and colleagues have designed a chemical laboratory for a planned ESA mission called Rosetta, which is intended to visit the surface of a comet in about the year 2011. In the meantime, a similar instrument could be sent to the Moon to check out contested reports of the presence water in shaded valleys. That water would be vital for possible lunar colonists, says Professor Pillinger.

In addition, chemical analysis would show whether such water had come from the Moon's interior or been deposited there from outer space. This would allow an insight into the development of the solar system which is impossible from Earth-based science.

Professor Pillinger points out that Apollo rock, plus samples retrieved by three probes from the former Soviet Union, have been supplemented in recent years by 13 meteorites found on the Earth which have been shown to be of lunar origin. This means, he says, that there is little point collecting more and bringing them back to Earth. Sending machines on to the Moon's surface or into Moon orbit to analyse what is beneath, with knowledge backed up by our existing hoard of lunar samples, is the more promising approach.

The ESA seems to agree with him, since its present lunar programme involves using just such landers and orbiters to open European exploration of the Moon. Thereafter, European scientists might oversee lunar experiments via "telepresence", by which Earth-bound scientists could use video links to examine samples and carry out experiments on the Moon. Only well into the 21st century would there be the construction of lunar bases. Its programme has no precise timescale and is not costed.

One dissident from this view of the way ahead is Michael O'Hara, now a distinguished research professor at the University of Wales College of Cardiff and until 1974 a Principal Investigator with Apollo. Professor O'Hara says that there is still "a huge amount to discover" on the Moon but argues that the rate of progress of lunar samples has been slow because there have been no new samples for scientists to work on.

"We have on the Moon an early planetary surface that froze. The oldest samples from Apollo are 4,490 million years old, and the solar system itself is only 4,520 million years old, only 30 million years more," he says. "This means that we have a lot to learn and there is still a lot of debate about how the lunar surface formed."

Hidden water would be vital for colonists

He praises the work of the Clementine instruments in providing new data on the composition of the lunar surface. And he is even more impressed with the altimeter readings, which show that the Moon's light areas, the Maria, are flat to within a metre over hundreds of kilometres, which illuminates the problem of whether they formed at once, from massive meteorite impacts, or in phases by lava flow.

However, he believes that fresh astronaut visits to the Moon are probably necessary to get more samples of known context. Only one of the Apollo samples, he thinks, is from a location described as well as would be taken for granted in a geological survey on Earth. It was gathered by Apollo 17's Harrison Schmitt, the only qualified geologist to have visited the Moon. Now, says Professor O'Hara, there needs to be drilling through the loose material of the lunar surface or a visit to a deep crater where the lunar interior is exposed.

Professor O'Hara concedes that machines are getting cleverer, and that people cannot be at their best "when they have a niggling worry about whether they are going to get back alive".

But even today's machines, he says, are less useful than a qualified astronaut, if only because "machines are only clever in the ways you remember to make them clever, while people reprogram themselves the whole time."

However, if astronauts do return to the Moon, they will do so only after new generations of machines have been there first. There are considerable political and financial obstacles to even comparatively cheap projects such as Clementine. The UK and other European countries are reluctant to see new projects added except in the very long-term to the ESA's plans.

And in the United States, the new Republican Congress is doubtful about big space projects. Robert Walker, incoming chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Science, said in his first remarks in office that he favours space projects that can bring in outside funding from industry.

Perhaps the most promise, given the success of their collaboration on the Hubble space telescope, lies in an ESA and Nasa joint Moon project.

● *The author is deputy editor of* The Times Higher Education Supplement.

Turned out baffling again

The hazards of long-term forecasting

The floods that have brought havoc to California are confirmation that meteorologists still have a long way to go in understanding the global climate. During the 1980s there was a growing conviction in the United States that many features of the weather were controlled by the tropical Pacific.

This confidence was based on computer models which reproduced variations every three to five years in sea surface temperature across the Pacific known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). By combining the interaction between the atmosphere and the oceans, the models gave a realistic representation of swings from warm to cold and back again.

After extreme warming in 1982-83, which was marked by severe flooding in California, the ability to forecast the ENSO was seen as the key to predicting weather throughout the tropics, and in some other parts of the world. The impact of the ENSO covers half the globe, controlling droughts in southern Africa, northeastern Brazil and across Australia, as well as the strength of the Indian monsoon and rainfall across the southern United States.

In 1991 the computer model successfully forecast the onset of warming across the tropical Pacific months in advance. Many of the expected weather extremes followed in early 1992.

As the warming began to fade later in 1992, everything seemed to be going to plan. But in 1993 the warming returned, contrary to expectation, and then dragged on through 1994, bringing crippling drought to the eastern half of Australia.

By now the modellers were truly confounded. The fact that conditions have not yet returned to normal means that the current warm period has outlasted anything since at least the early 1940s. All this shows how forlorn are hopes of being able to forecast months ahead.

WILLIAM BURROUGHS

Sailing into a copper-bottom controversy

A herbicide used to treat the underside of boats has stirred new fears about marine safety, says **Nick Nuttall**

THERE can be few images more symbolic of man and nature in harmony than the sight of a yacht tacking against a stiff breeze. Below the waves, however, there is the problem of how to keep hulls free of slime, weeds and barnacles, which damage the fabric, increase water resistance and reduce speed.

Until four years ago boat owners used to paint their hulls with the herbicide TBT (tributyl tin) to discourage growth of such pests, but it was banned after it was shown to kill oysters and cause sex changes in dog whelks. Instead they turned to copper-based paints with a herbicide additive.

But now these, too, are under suspicion after being detected in coastal waters, estuaries and lakes across Europe. Studies for the National Rivers Authority have found traces in waters and sediments along the South Coast. Concentrations of up to 0.6 micrograms per litre were detected in the Portsmouth areas and in the Medway and Hamble estuaries which are both close to busy marinas.

Ciba Geigy, the Swiss-based agrochemical company which makes the herbicide called Irgarol 1051, insists that at the levels being detected the chemical is harmless to fish and man.

Professor Fauzi Mantoura of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, part of the Natural Environment Research Council, is not convinced. His fear is that the chemical may be killing small algal organisms on which shellfish and other marine creatures depend.

Irgarol is known as a triazine herbicide similar to atrazine and simazine, two chemicals which were once used as weedkillers and banned for non-agricultural uses after they were found to be contaminating boreholes used for drinking water.

The way triazine chemicals broke down in soil was reasonably well understood, says Professor Mantoura, but their persistence in the marine and freshwater environments was less clear. "The degenerative pathways may be very different in water than in soils," he says.

Scientists at the National Chemicals Inspectorate in Sweden, where the chemical has been found in marinas near Gothenburg, have found that it can accumulate in fish and degrades very slowly in seawater.

Big tankers and navy ships were exempted from the ban on TBT, but there is growing pressure for these vessels to switch to alternatives. Professor Mantoura says: "We will undoubtedly see increased amounts. Research is desperately needed on the distribution and environmental effects, especially in estuaries."

Not everyone is so worried. Dr James Readman, of the International Atomic Energy Agency's marine environment laboratory in Monaco, believes Irgarol's toxicity is not as damaging as the coating chemicals it has helped to replace. This is despite the fact that he has found levels of up to 1.7 micrograms near exclusive marinas on the Côte d'Azur.

The best hope for the marine environment is that technological advance renders the copper paints redundant. Already US Navy scientists in Washington have identified a coating which is smoother than Teflon, making it virtually impossible for anything to stick to the surface.

In The Times Educational Supplement this week, a 20-page School Management Update includes a survival guide for primary schools facing inspection.

Teachers and Governors talk frankly about their inspection experience and we distil their advice for the benefit of all those facing inspection.

The TES. This Friday.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT
UPDATE

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT.

Repent, oh sordid sons of Sundon

A vicar's wrath with his village was no more than gospel truth

The photographs of the vicar of Sundon, Bedfordshire, were all printed rather small. Still, I *may have one* blown up into a poster, dog-collar and all. The Reverend Stephen Pullan *is my pin-up* for the week. Even though, unfortunately, he now seems to be backing *down from* the high, magnificent stance he took in last week's parish mag.

Irritated at low attendance, he wrote that "a *complete ignorance* of the things of God unites 95 per cent of the parish, who live *out their sordid little* lives without any reference to God". Now he is trying to *tell us that the fuss is all* stirred up by the press, and that he did not mean to *insult anyone.*

Poppycock, vicar! Hang on in there! All you did, *after all*, was to attempt a bit of proper ecclesiastical thundering and shock the parish awake. It ought to be a bonus that you shocked the nation instead. Wesley, who dismissed the parish of Sundon as "a very quiet and very stupid people", would have loved such a platform. He would not have been put off by villagers whingeing to reporters that the vicar is a "cheeky beggar", "terribly rude", and — in the case of a man described as a systems analyst — "he's a religious equivalent of Gerald Ratner, isn't he?".

LIBBY PURVES

Well, no. That's the point. Gerald got Ratnered for calling his own product *rude names. Stephen Pullan* implied the opposite: that the "things of God" are *lovely*, wise and transcendent, and that those who muddle on from day to day, getting and spending, are sordid. Their lives are — to select at random from the list of linked meanings the word has carried on its way from Latin to here, "base, mean, ignoble, coarse, inferior, squalid, selfish, and influenced only by mercenary considerations". The housewives of Sundon may have taken offence at the implication of dirtiness, but that is the least of this fine word's meanings. The vicar is in tune with Cardinal Manning: "All men of the world are sordid."

The phrase was good, too. The accusation of having a "sordid little life" probably hits a more raw nerve today than at any other time in history. For, now that so many of us have given up on the afterlife, we are very touchy about whether we are making the most of our earthly one. The phrases of the age are "quality of life", "live life to the full", and "lifestyle". The worst insult is "Get a life!" We pore over newspaper days-in-the-life of celebrities, and wonder *whether* we would do better if we moved to the country, went to the gym, or dressed only in white and ate raw celery like Lesley Kenton. We agonise at tedious length over the dilemmas facing working mothers. We scheme to get a few extra years, then worry about whether we will enjoy them.

Meanwhile, we are uncomfortably aware that our *daily lives are a bit short* on intimations of immortality. So we seize on anything which promises a quick glimpse of the Beyond: it could be sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll, an exercise adrenalin high, a dose of sloppy diluted Buddhism, a *mantra*, an *isolation tank*; it could just be a short-lived hysterical crusade about veal calves, or Clause Four. Anything to disguise from ourselves the fact that secretly, most of us are afraid that we do indeed lead "sordid little lives".

From our Gradgrind approach to education as solely a means to qualifications, we pass to an anxious adult obsession with money and security; then to an old age when we become not wise tribal chiefs, leading the young towards a unified, glorious vision of creation, but worrisome "pensioners" — once again *defined primarily* by our income. Sordid, or what?

Of *course*, even *without* church there are escape routes into transcendence *and pure, surprised joy.* They may come through art or literature, altruism, *scholarship*, or *travel to less* sordid cultures than our own. Parenthood brings moments of great and mysterious meaning to life; especially early parenthood *(it gets a bit sordid again later* on). For some people, contact with animals is the quickest way to commune with the spirit of the universe; for others, gardening *does* the trick. They undergo the nearest thing to a religious experience: they can manage by going on their knees in the damp soil, fostering new life.

So accuse us of "sordid little lives" at your peril, vicar. The reason we get so cross is that we *know* they are sordid. We are all, when we can spare time from the mean, coarse, squalid, selfish business of getting through the day, looking for a way out and up. We need reminding to keep at it: hence my choice of pin-up.

However, the Church of England could do itself a favour by accompanying such bracing criticism with a bit of self-examination. Why, do you suppose, does it occur to so few of us, as we search for Something Else, to try looking for it in church?

Rich pickings in Edinburgh — a scene from *Shallow Graves*, the hit film which shows how close respectable New Town lies to death-threats and torture in the underworld

The capital of Jekyll and Hyde

Genteel Edinburgh has always lived comfortably with its underworld. Now a hit film focuses on its *piquant double standards*,

says **Magnus Linklater**

The film *Shallow Graves* is about murder, betrayal, fear, suspicion and dismemberment. Its setting is *perfect: Edinburgh. Where* else do violent crime and utter respectability sit so cosily together?

The instant popularity of this low-budget thriller, in *which a trio of young people* living in a spacious New Town flat, find their fourth lodger dead from a drugs overdose with a suitcase of money beneath his bed, owes something to its solid neo-classical setting. The breaking of kneecaps, the torture by drowning, *the death-threats by Black and* Decker drill — they may be run of the mill in the Bronx. In Drummond Place they have added piquancy.

Edinburgh has always been a two-faced city, "held in the grip of a dual identity", as Allan Massie described it in *his recent book*; "respectable and God-fearing on the one hand, rebellious and scornful in its debauchery on the other". Its delightful hypocrisy was neatly encapsulated in Mrs Dora Noyce's brothel in Danube Street, set in a most refined part of town down by the Water of Leith, where, behind the 18th-century façade, young ladies entertained gentleman in ways never dreamt of in Morningside.

The brothel closed barely ten years ago, and was said to have done brisk business during the visits of American ships to the Port of Leith, and meetings of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when Edinburgh is full of ministers of the kirk. The residents complained from time to time, not particularly on moral grounds, but because of the noise of late-night taxis and the effect on property prices. Prostitution has always flourished in this city of lawyers and clerics. One calculation in 1842 had it that there were about 200 brothels in the New Town alone.

The history of Edinburgh's underworld reaches back a long way. It is synonymous with characters like Deacon Brodie, the 18th-century personification of Edinburgh respectability, a town councillor and cabinet-maker by day who formed a gang of burglars and roamed the streets by night, carrying out a series of daring break-ins. Caught and condemned to death, he was hanged on a gallows of his own construction. Robert Louis Stevenson was so fascinated by Brodie's character that he based his story, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, on his double life.

There is still, in the dark wynds off the Cowgate, in the depths of the Old Town, a whiff of the sinister side of Edinburgh's past, when the Irish immigrants Burke and Hare, commissioned to find bodies for the anatomy lessons of Dr Robert Knox at the Royal College of Surgeons, graduated from robbing graves to committing murder.

Perhaps because of Edinburgh's compactness, the professional and the criminal classes have often brushed shoulders. At no time was this more evident than during the so-called "Magic Circle" affair in 1992, when rumours started flying about the behaviour of some judges and senior lawyers who were said to have been caught up in a gay scene whose existence was being suppressed by a massive conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The investigation found no conspiracy, but afforded some fascinating glimpses into a louche world peopled by rent-boys, dubious lawyers and unscrupulous detectives.

Drugs, too, have been a basic part of Edinburgh's subculture for the past 20 years. For a time during the 1970s and early 1980s the city won itself the title of heroin capital of Europe, and something of the viciousness of the gangs controlling the drugs trade emerges in *Shallow Graves.* Since then, however, the use of heroin has dropped considerably, to the point where one police officer told me: "We have no serious crime problem linked to drugs." A decision was taken by Edinburgh's doctors to prescribe the heroin-substitute methadone and this has cut the use of shared needles to a minimum.

But drugs are, of course, still around. These days the front behind which drugs of various kinds are pushed is the network of saunas which have taken the place of Mrs Noyce's establishment. The sauna and massage parlour is another synonym for Edinburgh's double standards (the very word parlour is pure Muriel Spark). Recently it emerged that the police in Edinburgh were prepared to turn a blind eye to the fact that saunas were being used openly as places where sex is sold, in order to keep it off the streets.

Edinburgh has its protection rackets, particularly around the clubs of Tollcross and the Lothian Road in the West End, and there is more than an undercurrent of racism about the fact that it tends to concentrate on the immigrant Pakistani community. Watch carefully and you will see the occasional out-of-place Porsche or Ferrari slide to a halt outside a dimly-lit establishment. "It blends in ever so nicely with the moral ambience of the city," as one lawyer *put it.*

But it is perhaps typical of Edinburgh that the real racketeering does not revolve around anything so glamorous as speakeasies or nightclubs. These days, I am told, the big money is being made out of old people's homes. The granny-farm business, whereby properties, bought up cheaply during the slump, have been turned over to become nursing homes or residences for old people, has boomed in recent years. There is a guaranteed income, either squeezed out of the old people or the State. The business is tightly controlled by a small number of unscrupulous property developers. *It is* unpleasant, widespread and extremely lucrative.

There is something of this seediness in the last scene of *Shallow Graves*, which shows the survivor of the trio lying pinned to the floor by a knife that has just missed his heart. One of his friends has been killed. The girl has fled the country, penniless. But he has survived. And he has the cash. He grins knowingly as the camera homes in. Very Edinburgh.

When the protesters come out of their crates

Middle England's alliance with the malcontents over the misery of veal calves is a protest over its own discontent and powerlessness

MY *father* used to dread taking his children out to feed the calves in their sunless shed. *It made* us all anxious, that experiment with what was known as "baby beef" 30 years ago.

Father would keep up an uneasy monologue as we mixed the milk powder: "Mind you get the measurements right, or you'll make them ill, just like human babies. I'm not at all sure we should be doing this, it's so unnatural. It may be productivity, but is it progress?"

The calves weren't crated, but they were deprived of grass, light and their mothers, and we fancied we saw reproach in those big brown eyes. My father abandoned the experiment, and so did his friends. They were not what you'd call sentimental men, but they took a dim view of any farmer who ill-treated his animals.

Their anthropomorphism was hierarchical, however, like the animal *kingdom itself.* Having abandoned veal, many of them went into the other newish sort of factory farming, battery chickens. They were not entirely comfortable with that, either, but a chicken in a sweatshop is easier to look in the eye than a calf, as Spike Milligan found when he sat in a battery cage and squawked for chicken's lib. The public largely ignored him: they, like the farmers, found they could live with improving the productivity of poultry (from 20 eggs per bird to an astonishing 250), even if it meant keeping chickens in conditions worse than veal crates. They still can, which is why 85 per cent of our 34 million chickens live that way.

MARGOT NORMAN

There is something *disturbingly* artificial about this veal row that has sent the *middle-aged* law-abiders out on to the barricades with the yobs and fanatics. It isn't really about veal at all, is it? You can see that something peculiar is going on when you *watch encounters* between dairy farmers and the sort of normal, sensible townspeople *to whom you might entrust* your dog while you're away.

The farmer explains that calves are an inescapable by-product of the milk business and asks what he should do with them. "Kill them at birth!" screeches the Middle Englander, that proud standard-bearer of compassion, before going off to give what-for to a lorry driver at Shoreham "who must expect trouble if he gets involved with this dirty *trade*".

Hey presto, he, or more likely she, is *transformed into* a campaigner in the mould of the late Andrew Lees, who died of a heart attack while creeping about trying to establish that a mining company's plans for Madagascar were as wicked as he knew they must be. I never met Mr Lees, but I don't like the sound of him from the devastatingly backhanded "tribute" by his former colleague at Friends of the Earth, Jonathon Porritt, that appeared yesterday: he was notable for "principled positions defended beyond compromise and sometimes beyond reason; an aptitude for the tactics of attrition that would have done credit to the Vietcong".

> It might be about anything — the issue doesn't matter

Is this really how they see themselves, these demonstrators-come-lately who keep telling us they never so much as jumped a red light until ten days ago? I fear that, all of a sudden, they do. *It is the democratic* deficit that has suddenly got to *them, and the con*ductive agent for that electric burst of indignation might just as well have been seals, or pigs, or horses as calves. The issue itself doesn't much matter, so long as it looks simple and generates strong emotion.

As one Edward Lester wrote in a letter to *The Observer* yesterday, it's a general malaise of powerlessness that links Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells with Bomber of Beaconsfield. "When did government ever respond to the voice of reason and moderation, or the media give extensive coverage to a peaceful demonstration?" he wants to know. "Perhaps we should blame a selfish society that is only jolted out of indifference to misery by sensational action."

That, surely, is the essence of the sort of anthropormorphism we are seeing here. It is not really a question of people looking at a crated calf and saying: "I know how I'd feel if I were in *that crate." It is* more a matter of people who *already* feel so powerless and disillusioned with the processes by which their lives are governed, that the sight of the crated calf gives them a sudden jolt of identity. That's how they feel themselves. In taking action, therefore, what they are emphatically not doing is trying to give the animal a life as contented as their own. They are merely lashing out as an expression of their own cratedness.

It may, therefore, be irrelevant that the veal row looks like being soon resolved. We can ignore the reassurances from the mendacious Dutch, who certainly cannot keep their promise to house British calves in groups, because they simply haven't the room. We [and William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister] can, however, take comfort from an unexpected quarter: the European Commission has produced a study which claims that banning veal crates and force-feeding of calves would have no appreciable effect on the veal industry's profitability, and more than half the *advisers in the Commission's* equivalent of an agriculture ministry are now urging a ban *on both practices.*

So what is next? The fur trade is flourishing again, but this sort of lightning does not strike twice in precisely the same place. Farmers, who worry that intensive lambing may be the next target, could be forgiven for hoping the malcontents' attention will be diverted by a nasty little pamphlet now circulating on how to sabotage construction firms working on the roads programme.

But surely there has to be a more grown-up way of relieving democracy's discontent.

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صكنا من الاهل

Matthew Parris

■ Penguins may dress formally, but their domestic manners are simply appalling

An early visitor to Antarctica noted: "They are extraordinarily like children these little people of the Antarctic world, either like children or old men, full of their own importance and late for dinner in their black tailcoats and white shirt-fronts and rather portly withal."

Your columnist, sitting on Paulet Island and surrounded by a colony of some 60,000 breeding pairs of Adélie penguins, could not have put it better, though I might have chosen for my own comparison a sanctuary of lightly pregnant nuns.

Paulet Island lies just off the Antarctic peninsula. It was here that the Swedish Captain Larsen spent the winter of 1903 in a tiny stone hut, after his vessel, the *Antarctic*, had been crushed by ice and sunk in the Weddell Sea. The remains of the hut are still visible, engulfed in a sea of their own: a sea of penguins, only 1,500 of which Larsen and his men had time to eat.

This chapter of our trip to Antarctica on a ship called the *Explorer* is headed in our itinerary "Paulet Island, Erebus and Terror Gulf"; I hope to be describing the whole journey in due course, but for the moment I am absorbed by those penguins. Let me disabuse you of your penguin fantasies.

You can forget any idea that penguins are cuddly or sweet. Penguin society is nasty, brutish and smelly. A penguin colony appears to combine all the worst features of an inner-city existence, without the nightlife. In the ocean they flash like torpedoes, underwater, dolphining and diving through the waves; but on land, where they must raise their chicks, and where they can only waddle in the most awkward way, it's another story.

A penguin's nest is made of stones, there being nothing else to build with. But where to build? If it's too far from the beach, life becomes a torment of staggering over rocks every time you want a cup of tea. If it's by the beach, however, a revolting and fearsome beast known as a leopard seal comes caterpillaring up the sand in the night and eats your children.

Seals are not cute, either. Have you ever smelt a seal's breath? I got my first whiff yesterday. A leopard seal's life seems to consist of lying about scratching himself with his flippers, opening and shutting one eye, yawning, breaking wind, then, when the mood takes him, eating a defenceless penguin.

Nor do seals designate what we might call a bathroom area. They just lie around, surrounded by the stinking remains of what they have just been eating.

If this were the contemplative life it would be excusable, but the seal demeanour offers no hint of the spiritual. I yield to no one in my opposition to the clubbing of seals, but I do not for a moment suppose a seal would have any qualms about clubbing us if he could.

But back to the penguins. If you build on a ridge, then icy winds rip through your nest. If you choose a hollow, then the first snowdrift buries your eggs. So what do you do? You copy all the other penguins, huddling together in a vast colony, claw-deep in guano, holding your nose, subject to what Tony Blair would call "shared community values". Commonsense and penuin instinct alike force you together with your fellow birds.

But you don't *like* them. Your shore life is spent stealing stones from other nests, or pecking at raiders in search of your own stones. Space is so tight and the waddlers are so ungainly that everyone keeps knocking everyone else over, or treading on each other's nests.

> The seals do not bother to designate what we might call a bathroom area

And the worst of it is that your land-vision is so poor that you can't even be sure of recognising your own spouse or relations. Exchanging desperate squawks in an attempt at voice recognition, you try to guard against teenage penguins from other families pretending to be your offspring and cheating you out of that throatful of regurgitated krill you were keeping for your own kids.

Overhead, the huge brown skua bird cruises in search of unguarded eggs. When penguins sight one, they point up angrily with their beaks, the whole colony shrieking. Adolescent penguins rampage around, fighting, courting by the outlying rocks (the penguin equivalent of bus shelters) or trampling over other families' nests. Nobody moves so much as an inch if he wants a pee. The stench is overwhelming. The hisses and shrieks of family and inter-family squabbles fill the air. Everywhere lies rubbish and the carcases and skeletons of dead penguins. The scene resembles Britain during the gravediggers' and dustmen's strike in the winter of 1979.

Penguins suffer the horrors of forced equality without the compensating pleasures of mutual esteem. Proximity without affection: a socialist lifestyle with Thatcherite values. "Most Adélie penguins live to about 14," our lecturer, Megan, told us: "but those who don't breed can live to over 20." I raise my gin and tonic to a glorious slow Antarctic sunset. And to those who don't breed.

Whatever people think, the old stereotypes remain true: the Tories are the lower-spending party

Of course Labour will tax you more

William Rees-Mogg

The British are pretty thick. That is the only conclusion one can reach from reading opinion polls. I remember from my own days on *The Sunday Times*, back in the early 1960s, that we published an opinion poll which showed that a majority of the public thought Alec Douglas-Home was bright but not quite straight, and that Harold Wilson was straight but none too bright. Yesterday *The Sunday Times* produced another prized example of the folly of the polls. Apparently 49 per cent told Harris that they see the Tories as the party of higher taxes, and only 23 per cent saw Labour in that light. How unrealistic can one be?

There are many plausible reasons at present for supporting the Labour Party, some of which are more justifiable than others. Yet it is not remotely plausible to suppose that the Labour Party is now, or could ever become, the low-tax party. Any party exists to serve its own constituency. The Tory party exists to serve a constituency of the middle class, of the people who pay more in tax than they receive in benefits from the State. That is not the sole reason for the survival of the Conservative Party, but it is an essential condition. The Labour Party represents those people who, over a *lifetime*, are substantial net beneficiaries of high welfare. Of course, there are many middle-class people who support Labour and many poor people who vote Conservative, but this tax and welfare equation is the foundation on which each party has been built. The absence of such a foundation condemns the Liberal Democrats to permanent minority status.

The proposition that the Conservative Party will in the future be the high-spend and high-tax party supposes that it has permanently abandoned its basic constituency. If that were true, it would mean that the Conservatives were about to disappear from the pages of history, to be replaced by some new party of the right which would do the job properly. Equally, it is the business of the Labour Party to raise expenditure which benefits its constituency, and to pay for welfare by redistributing taxes on the middle class — the rich being not so easy to catch. If the Labour Party ceases to be the high-tax party, it will be redundant. If the respondents to the Harris poll are correct, both major parties are about to abandon their historic constituencies. The logical conclusion would be that a new left-wing party would spring up to fight a new right-wing party, and the next election would be fought between Dennis Skinner in the red corner and Teresa Gorman in the blue. That is not going to happen.

The conclusions of this poll are therefore absurd. They do, however, show how much political damage has been done to the Tories by the tax increases of 1993 and 1994. John Major is in the same position as George Bush got himself into. Major fought the 1992 general election on the commitment to cut taxes, just as George Bush fought his 1990 campaign with the pledge: "Read my lips, no new taxes". Both campaigns were successful, but John Major and George Bush both went back on their commitments. Each man betrayed his main pledge to his main constituency.

John Major had to raise taxes in 1993 and 1994 because government expenditure had been allowed to rise in 1991 and 1992 — on his watch. In addition, the deep recession that started in 1990 led to lower revenue and higher expenditure than had been expected. That worldwide recession was more severe than was necessary in Britain, because of high interest rates and the disastrous commitment to the exchange-rate mechanism. It was entirely fair for the American electorate to blame George Bush for raising taxes when he was President: it was equally fair for the British electorate to blame John Major. He has already paid a high price in popularity for his mistakes.

I hope that the failure of these soft economic policies will discredit not only left-wing Conservatism — of which Kenneth Clarke is the modern leader — but that dangerous theory of pragmatism which John Major has adopted. "Pragmatism" is a reactive policy, and always means compromise, if not appeasement. In terms of public expenditure, pragmatism means spending more money but reducing the increase by a little bit. It was pragmatism which allowed expenditure to run out of control in the early 1990s: it is pragmatism which still refers to reductions in increases in expenditure as "cuts". The pragmatist always says "yes" to building the new tower block, but limits it to 18 storeys instead of 20.

Nevertheless, it is absurd to suppose that John Major would spend less, or tax less, than Tony Blair, if he were to remain Prime Minister after 1997. In my judgment, Tony Blair is as good a Labour leader as the country is likely to get. I think him honest, intelligent, up-to-date and quite tough-minded, well aware that overspending and overtaxing could bring down the house of cards of a Labour government. John Major made terrible mistakes in the first two years of his leadership, mistakes which haunt him to this day and will haunt him at the next general election.

I also believe that Major has been learning from his mistakes, and is far more realistic and a much better Prime Minister now than he was when he came into office. Yet, Tony Blair (however good) and John Major (however mistaken) represent two different interests. One represents the net welfare recipients and the other the net tax payers. Under Tony Blair, welfare and taxes will both be higher: it is in the nature of his party and his job.

The British middle class is therefore entirely justified in its anger at the Conservative tax increases. If public expenditure had been properly controlled, the increases would not have been necessary. The middle classes are right to be suspicious of Kenneth Clarke's attitude to spending: when it comes to public expenditure cuts, he is a sheep in wolf's clothing. But it is a mistake to suppose that a historic reversal of the party roles has taken place, or could take place.

Of course, if John Redwood or Peter Lilley were Chancellor, the Conservatives would look much more convincing as the low-tax party. John Redwood is correct in his criticism of the failure of Conservative Government to reduce public expenditure in relative, let alone absolute, terms.

The same poll shows that almost exactly the same percentages, and probably much the same respondents, trust Labour to deliver a secure economic future for themselves and their families. Labour is ahead on that by 48 to 21, as against 49 to 23 on tax. This shows how important the tax battlefield is. If the commonsense expectation that taxes will be lower under the Tories can be restored — and it is undoubtedly correct — then economic and electoral confidence in the Government are likely to revive. The Tories as the low-tax party are always hard to beat.

On European policy, John Major has signalled his change of heart, even though he has not yet welcomed the nine rebels back into the bosom of the party. Something of the same sort has to happen on expenditure and tax. The problem is one of regaining trust. I think trust may be returning on the European issue; it is obviously still much further away on the issue of taxation, yet that is the one which is likely to decide the next general election.

Where do we point the finger?

Peter Riddell

argues that the regulators of utilities are a political anomaly

Ian Byatt, Don Cruickshank, Stephen Littlechild, Clare Spottiswoode and John Swift are not instantly familiar names. Yet they are among the most powerful hundred people in Britain, with a crucial say over vital industries and large parts of every household's budget. The five are the respective regulators of the water, telecommunications, electricity, gas and rail industries. They are remembered, if at all, when they pop up in the headlines, as in the current row over the number of stations which will sell tickets for the whole rail system.

The regulators are a modern version of Cromwell's major-generals, or of French *prefects*, with an industrial rather than a regional role. They have far more power than better known heads of executive agencies, such as Derek Lewis of the Prison Service. As Mr Swift, the Rail Regulator, has said, in most cases he cannot be told what to do by ministers. But to whom are they accountable?

Mr Byatt and his colleagues are a constitutional novelty created since the early 1980s. They are a very British response to the problem of how to privatise monopoly utilities on terms which would attract private investors while also safeguarding consumer interests. This has involved setting up regulators separate from Whitehall and with wide discretionary powers: policing the licences granted by the Government to quasi-monopoly suppliers such as regional water and electricity companies. This is to ensure that consumers receive supplies and that companies are financially able to provide services.

Yet regulators have been unable to escape the dilemma that caused these industries to be nationalised in the 1940s. They provide essential services, in which consumers have no real choice (apart, recently, from telecommunications). Wider social and environmental obligations cannot be ignored. It has been impossible just to issue licences and let regulators monitor them.

Critics such as Dieter Helm at Oxford and Cento Veljanovski, who writes for the free-market Institute of Economic Affairs and the European Policy Forum, have argued that regulators have too much discretion. They have made policy, not just enforced it, and regulation has become personalised. Sir James McKinnon, the first Gas Regulator, often clashed bitterly with British Gas. But Ms Spottiswoode, his successor, publicly differed from him in her opposition to using money from gas bills for energy insulation and savings.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

In general, the regulators have emphasised the promotion of competition, believing that other matters are for politicians. During the row over pit closures two years ago, there was a direct conflict between the Government's desire to give temporary help to British Coal and the independence of electricity regulation. Professor Littlechild, its regulator, backed a free-market approach which had encouraged the dash for gas. He resisted proposals to allow the extra costs of buying coal to be passed on to consumers. He crucially influenced the eventual compromise. Mr Helm argues that this system of regulation worked against longer-term investment needs. The Commons Trade and Industry Committee argued that the regulator had not discharged his duties in a satisfactory way, owing to "over-reliance on competition".

This experience has produced alternative proposals. Free-market economists such as Mr Veljanovski have argued for a clearer system of rules, more transparency, less discretion and an enhanced role for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Regulators should leave social issues, such as provision in rural areas or to the disabled, to the politicians. From the opposite angle, Labour favours strengthening the powers of the regulators to take account of broader strategic and social factors. A recent Institute for Public Policy Research report, *Regulating Our Utilities*, proposed regulatory commissions, rather than just single regulators, which could include representatives of major affected interests.

Gordon Brown has proposed that regulators' powers should be broadened to take account of big pay increases awarded to senior executives of these utilities. Greater public control via regulation is seen by Labour leaders as an alternative to the expensive option of re-establishing public ownership, except, perhaps, in the case of rail. But Labour is torn between strengthening the regulators and wanting to give Whitehall back its extensive say.

There is already a danger of political influence on sensitive issues. Last October, there was a revealing exchange between Patrick Nicholls, a Tory MP from Devon, and Robert Atkins, an Environment Minister, over the water regulator's decision to limit price rises by South West Water. This ruling is now being reviewed by the MMC. Not only did Mr Nicholls boast that charges were pegged "only because of the efforts of Conservative MPs and because of the actions of ministers", but Mr Atkins agreed.

At present ministers have it both ways: giving regulators considerable discretion and reserving for themselves the right to intervene on occasion. In a recent speech, Tim Eggar, the Minister for Industry and Energy, rejected both free-market and left-wing criticisms on the grounds that the present system avoided being too legalistic and bureaucratic while preserving flexibility.

That, however, leaves the regulators in an anomalous constitutional position. Professor Cosmo Graham, of Hull University, argues that current worries over regulation are part of a wider problem of accountability in government. There is a need for more oversight, via both the MMC and a new Commons committee on regulated industries. Annual reports and occasional appearances before committees are not enough. New regulators, whether individuals or new commissions covering whole industrial sectors, such as energy or transport, should be subject to approval by Parliament before appointment. If the regulators are to remain flexible, they need to be more publicly accountable.

THE TIMES DIARY

Mixed motifs

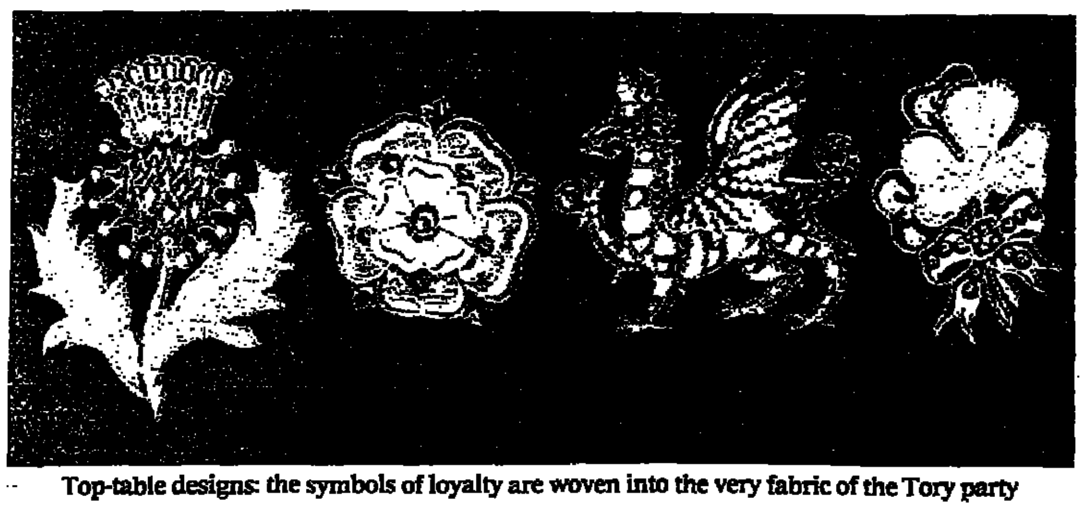
THE TORY party's winter ball next month will be a colourful affair, not least because of its tablecloths. The party has commissioned one of Britain's top fabric makers to provide more than 3,000 metres of a special bright blue chintz to drape liberally around the ballroom.

The material, called "Spangle", will go on sale this spring at £22.50 a metre. But I am assured the Tories did not pay the full £67,500 to the designer, Osborne & Little. No doubt mindful of Central Office's £19 million overdraft, the company offered a discount for the bulk purchase.

No fabric could better reaffirm the party's unionist credentials, just as John Major decries Tony *Blair over his devolution plans* for Scotland. Roses, thistles, leeks, daffodils and shamrocks are printed in abundance on the material, along with lucky symbols such as shooting stars and horseshoes.

"We were asked to do a 'Best of British' theme," says Sir Peter Osborne, the company chairman. "Ireland is represented by a shamrock and a heart; Wales with a leek, a dragon and a daffodil; Scotland with a stag, a thistle and a trout; and England with roses, acorns and a unicorn."

Sir Peter will host a table for 10 at the ball, where he will be joined by *his son George, a researcher in the* policy division at Central Office, who assures me he has not been a broker in the matter. What will happen to the mountain of Tory fabric once the party is over has yet to be decided.



Top-table designs: the symbols of loyalty are woven into the very fabric of the Tory party

Rug rethink

THE House of Commons Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, was an unlikely sight at Camden's flea market, in north London. *Yet I am convinced* I saw her at the weekend surrounded by ethnic bongo drummers and haggling with a street trader over an £11.95 rug.

"Is it machine-washable?" she demanded.

"Yes it is, my dear," said the stallholder. "Where are you going to put it?"

"By my bed."

"It will look lovely by your bed," said the trader.

"Fine. I'll have it, just so long as you say it's machine-washable," said our beloved Speaker, bustling away down the ethnic high street.

Max factor

PUBLICIST Max Clifford is behind the weekend news that friends of the Princess of Wales are to be called into the witness box. They are being asked by the other side to give evidence in her High Court case over the sneaky leotard photographs of her work-out in a west London gym.

Diana is suing Bryce Taylor, the former owner of the gym where the photographs were taken, and the case is to be heard next month. Taylor's lawyer, meanwhile, is serving many of her circle with subpoenas to hear their side of the story. Loyalties may be sorely divided, but it all gave Clifford an excuse for a Groucho Club lunch with the lawyers on Friday.

For cod's sake

JOHN MAJOR has received a fillip from an unexpected quarter. As he was trawling for friends among backbenchers at Chequers yesterday, fish-and-chip shop owners were praising his appetite.

The forthcoming issue of the journal of the National Federation of Fish Friers reports glowingly how he and Norma ordered fish and chips twice during the 1994 Conservative Party conference in *Bournemouth*. Plaice and chips and haddock and chips were delivered to their hotel room by Chez Fred, an outlet run by one Fred Capel, who even received a thank-you letter from Major.

"We understand the Majors have fish and chips delivered often to 10 Downing Street," says the federation's general-secretary, Arthur Parrington. "If people bought fish and chips as often as he does, we would know the economy is on the up and up — but it isn't."

● *Sean Connery will be looking on with bemusement at Manchester United's £7 million purchase of the Newcastle striker Andy Cole. No mean footballer himself, Connery was approached by Manchester United in the 1950s with a £25-a-week offer. He opted instead to sing in the chorus line of* South Pacific *— for £12 a week.*

The Hat fits

LORD LESTER's resignation from the Garrick Club on account of its attitude to women (the club won't have them) comes just as that great egalitarian Roy Hattersley joins the chauvinist institution.

Hatters is justly proud of his election to the claret-soaked club where Sir Kingsley Amis is often to be seen easing his way upstairs after eating. "I am a new member," says Labour's leading luncher, "and I am not working or mobilising anyone to get women elected at the moment. But I believe that the Garrick should have women. If there were a poll tomorrow, I would vote for them to join."

P·H·S

LABOUR'S RAIL NAIVETY

Public ownership is not necessary to secure public control

The Government's plan for privatising the railways is badly structured, unpopular and ill-considered. Yet, to judge by the statement made yesterday by John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, his party risks ceding far too much ground to the Tories and drawing attention to its economic naivety.

Mr Prescott, not normally a man of few words, uttered a simple one-word fallacy when he declared that "Labour's aim is clear — to ensure a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway." That single word "owned" will be critical at a general election. Despite Labour's internal battle over Clause Four and the dogma of nationalisation, even the party's deputy leader seems not to have understood the essence of Tony Blair's modernising message: that public ownership of an industry is neither necessary nor sufficient to ensure public accountability and ultimate public control.

Mr Prescott's implied commitment to renationalisation is unwise for many reasons. The least of these is the one most widely quoted — that a Labour government "could not afford it", if Railtrack is sold off for around £4 billion. In reality, the Treasury could easily "afford" to buy back Railtrack. Renationalistion would simply require an exchange of one kind of financial paper — government bonds — for another — Railtrack shares. This exchange would increase the public sector borrowing Requirement for only one year.

More to the point, a Labour government could renationalise Railtrack for far less than the widely quoted £4 billion. The value of Railtrack shares would depend directly on the rate of return to investors permitted by government regulation. If Labour chose to alter the regulatory framework and sharply reduce the prices charged by Railtrack, the company would immediately become much cheaper to buy back.

A sharp reduction in Railtrack's prices would even be economically justifiable: one of the biggest flaws in the Government's present plan for privatisation is the decision to put an unrealistically high value on Railtrack's assets and then allow the company an excessive rate of return. The effect of these perverse decisions, both taken at Treasury insistence, will be to increase the proceeds from privatising Railtrack, but also to increase the amount of public subsidy the railways will require each year.

Labour could quite reasonably commit itself at this stage to cutting both the value of Railtrack's assets and the rate of return it is permitted. But if it did this in the context of a promise to renationalise Railtrack, it would be open to the charge of undermining Railtrack profits for the sole purpose of buying back its shares on the cheap. This policy would certainly be challenged by Railtrack shareholders as an unlawful expropriation.

If, on the other hand, Labour simply promised to revise the regulatory framework to reduce Railtrack's profits, but without buying back the company's shares, it would be acting well within the rights of a newly-elected government. It would be showing that it understood how social objectives could be secured through tighter regulation, rather than public ownership. And it would be giving formal notice to potential Railtrack investors that the profits they were promised by the present Government were by no means secure.

By sounding the alarm now, Mr Blair would protect himself from charges of bad faith when he curtailed Railtrack's profits after an election. He might even discourage the stock market from the present privatisation scheme. To turn the stock market into Labour's ally in scuppering an ill-conceived Tory privatisation plan: that might be the first solid victory for Mr Blair's modernisers.

A MISSION TO CARE

This is the year to pull out all stops for the Red Cross

They wait in emergency rooms or makeshift tents at football grounds, rock concerts, point-to-points and even protest rallies: on hand to cope with accidents, co-ordinate emergency services, help the elderly and comfort lost children. Red Cross volunteers give silent, invaluable service, day in, day out. Often unnoticed, many times uncalled on, always ready to give their time without reward, they are all too often taken for granted. So identified is the distinctive symbol with care for the sick and the relief of suffering around the globe that the Red Cross is increasingly seen, like the National Trust, as a government body or even a branch of the United Nations.

It is not. It depends crucially on its volunteers. And the number coming forward to carry on the work launched in Britain 125 years ago is falling. Ten years ago there were 200,000 members of the 89 branches that make up the British Red Cross; today there are only 90,000, a precipitous drop of 55 per cent. The British Red Cross is, therefore, using this year's anniversary to make its true self better known. The campaign was launched on Saturday at a rally in Highbury Stadium, London, and will culminate on May 8.

The precise anniversary falls on July 22, the date when Colonel Robert Loyd Lindsay wrote to *The Times* to express his horror at the carnage of the Franco-Prussian War and urged the creation of a British organisation to support the fledgeling Society For Aiding in Ameliorating the Conditions of Sick and Wounded of Armies in Time of War — the precursor of the International Committee of the Red Cross. But by linking its own anniversary to the National Commemoration of VE-Day, the British Red Cross underlines the continuing vital role it plays in war today, sending volunteers to Rwanda, Afghanistan and Bosnia, alleviating hunger, investigating torture and providing medicines and comfort to the victims.

This emphasis on the publicised role that volunteers play abroad should not obscure the pressing need still for the Red Cross at home. The organisation has been among the first to respond to disasters that have hit Britain — Hillsborough, Lockerbie, the Bradford stadium fire, the Clwyd floods to name some of the most recent. Less spectacularly but no less vital, it supports the victims of domestic fires, trains people in first aid, takes patients home from hospital, assists rehabilitation, visits the sick and elderly, and lends wheelchairs and medical equipment to those in need.

This domestic work, with a yearly budget of £60 million, needs men and women willing to give their time and money. The Red Cross needs to do more to publicise its routine work. It must show that it needs to recruit not only doctors and nurses but volunteers for its expanding community care services, staff for its network of shops, people to carry on the original function of tracing contacts and reuniting families divided by war. The organisation works best when it works alongside professionals. But it must never let either government or professionals take it for granted. The Red Cross needs its own distinctive profile. *The Times*, proud of its role in the origins of and support for the Society, will do its bit to help this year. We ask others to do the same.

NO MAN HAS TO BE AN ISLAND

Fax softly, for you fax on our urban dreams

Remote islands have been topics for romantic escapists since there was civilisation to escape from. Those born on them have tended to be realistic, and escaped to the bright lights at the earliest opportunity. Our survey of the flight to the isles, published on page 5, describes how for the first time technology is making it possible to combine the romantic pleasures of remoteness with the economic and cultural advantages of the city.

For one thing, physical access to islands by light aircraft, hovercraft and (for Skye) a bridge is making their isolation less extreme. But the biggest change lies not in travel to the wild places but in communication. Personal computers, fax, television and the electronic superhighway are plugging crofts away on the world's rim into instant contact with the urban world of business and information. It is becoming possible to earn a living from a "tellycottage" in the most isolated parts as an accountant, translator, copywriter or secretary for companies with offices anywhere in the world. So the computer terminal is bridging isolation in as revolutionary a way as the first sailors or the pioneer bridge-builders.

Paradoxically, the remoteness of islands is making their electronic communications better, because they have no alternative. Big cities have libraries, universities, museums, resident experts and all the other resources of the old learning. Because it has none of such things, the Isle of Lewis is creating one the world's first computer universities, and is thereby linking some of the most isolated communities in the world with the most modern education available anywhere. So now is the time for romantics to put their mobile telephones where their mouths were. It is revealing that those who have praised the romance of remoteness have seldom chosen to live in the wilds themselves. From Homer to Cavafy, poets have written about the rewards of travelling towards Ithaca rather than its insular life. Alphonse Daudet described the pleasures of living in a Provençal windmill and Compton Mackenzie of *Whisky Galore* from the comforts of their metropolitan clubs. A rare romantic who practised what he wrote, Robert Louis Stevenson, stopped writing insular escapism as soon as he settled in Samoa.

This modern escape from the rat-race to the fringes of the world where eagles soar and otters play brings the dangers of the good life. Those whom Hebrideans call incomers and natives of the wilder shores of Ireland call "blow-ins" may carry with them their urban tension. In the bossy way of suburban man and woman, they might start organising campaigns against fecklessness, lethargy, untidiness and other old insular virtues. They might even petition against metropolitan subsidy to the isles on the principle of Not Around My Sea Loch or Lough.

However, the romantic view is that the beauty of the islands and the ancient cunning of the islanders will convert them to a less frantic way of life. And if the beauty does not, the long nights and horizontal Scotch mist soon will. Romantic escapism depends on not actually being made to escape.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Threat to end income support for mortgage payments

From the Shadow Minister for Housing

Sir, The most disturbing implication of Peter Lilley's article, "Cast-iron home loans" (January 10), is that he clearly has little or no grasp of the impact of his proposals on the housing market.

After the ravages of the recession, and the unprecedented problems of repossession and negative equity, the housing market remains in the doldrums. Both existing and prospective homeowners are showing extreme caution about taking out new loans. Their caution is compounded by anxiety about long-term employment prospects, particularly when increasing numbers of employees are now on short-term contracts.

To make matters worse they face the likelihood of further interest rate rises and the reduction of Miras (mortgage interest relief at source) from 20 per cent to 15 per cent in April. Coming on top of all this Mr Lilley's threat to withdraw the income support safety net from homeowners in financial difficulty is the final ingredient in a lethal cocktail which will poison any prospect of recovery in the housing market.

Mr Lilley claims that private insurance will provide a painless alternative to income support. It won't. More than half the current recipients of income support are, in his words, "the more difficult risks" — such as relationship breakdown.

Furthermore the increased costs will, contrary to Mr Lilley's breezy claims, almost certainly inhibit new borrowers. An additional £503 a year in London, £450 in the South East or even £357 in the North West will stretch many family budgets to breaking point. These are the likely additional costs to homeowners in average-priced properties from reduced Miras and the increase in insurance.

Of course the costs will be much higher for people who are considered at high risk of losing their job. I would not even begin to speculate about the kind of premiums which Tory MPs in marginal seats might be asked to pay.

Yours sincerely,
NICK RAYNSFORD
(MP for Greenwich),
House of Commons.
January 10.

From Sir Gordon Borrie, Chairman of the Commission on Social Justice

Sir, Peter Lilley states (report, January 10) that the proposals of the Commission on Social Justice on welfare reforms would cost £7 billion. It is alarming for the Social Security Minister to be so inaccurate.

It is, in fact, impossible to arrive at a total costing for the commission's strategies because they are designed for 15 years rather than the usual five years of a parliamentary term; and because our welfare-to-work proposals would result in tangible savings and increased tax revenues by moving people out of the expensive poverty trap which Mr Lilley appears content to continue subsidising.

The commission has set out a number of more efficient and just uses for public money than paying to keep people out of work. The cost of introducing a mortgage benefit, for example, will be recouped by providing incentives for unemployed homebuyers to move back to work.

If a quarter of a million families are moved off income support in this way, savings of £750 million could be generated. The Government cannot claim such potential for its own budgetary measure of cutting support to unemployed and prospective homebuyers. This may be part of the Government's package of "savings", but it will add at least £30 a month to the average new mortgage.

Lastly, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, to which Mr Lilley referred at a seminar of the Social Market Foundation, has not attempted to produce a costing of the commission's final report. The figure of £7 billion to which the minister refers is taken from one estimate of the likely investment required to achieve a number of the commission's objectives. He omits to say that a better use of the value of some existing tax allowances would pay for them, without the need for any income tax increases on lower and middle-income families at all.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON BORRIE, Chairman,
Commission on Social Justice,
Institute for Public Policy Research,
30-32 Southampton Street, WC2.
January 11.

From Mr John Denham, MP for Southampton Itchen (Labour)

Sir, Peter Lilley is surely wrong to be so complacent over the abolition of income support mortgage interest payments. Of course, the insurance market will adjust and some new insurance products will become available. But ministers have made it very clear that they do not intend to introduce tight regulation over the sale of mortgage insurance products. It does not take much imagination to see what will happen.

The public will be required to pay through the nose whatever they buy. In 1993, premiums of £220 million were paid for mortgage insurance. Insurance payouts were £160 million, a 30 per cent mark-up to the insurers' costs and profits.

As Mr Lilley says, the cost of mortgage protection does not have to be borne by the taxpayer. But if it is cheaper, fairer, safer and better for homebuyers, it might just be the best way.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DENHAM,
House of Commons.

Air cadet funding

From Mr Tom Briton

Sir, Bruce Brandon's letter (January 6), I fear, damages the cause to maintain funding levels to the air cadet organisation. The Air Training Corps was never supposed to be the same as the Boys Brigade. It was born out of the nation's needs in 1941, and by the diligent efforts of its "volunteer officers" — who are in fact commissioned in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve — continues to serve the nation's needs extremely well.

I am aware of the respect which both military and industrial leaders have for aid cadets. It is wrong to base an argument on funding by unfair comparison with the volunteer youth groups, whose activities are essentially recreational.

Yours faithfully,
TOM BRITON,
36 Craggyknowe, Hawthorn Park,
Washington, Tyne and Wear.
January 12.

Hidden treasures

From Sir Christopher Pinsent

Sir, Mrs Jenny Pery (letter, December 27) referred to the difficulty she has had in getting help from the Tate Gallery in mounting exhibitions of the work of Solomon J. Solomon, Claude Rogers and, in preparation for a show this spring at the Fine Art Society, John Dodgson.

Application for the loan of a work by the latter has been rejected. Yet the gallery's archives must surely contain evidence of the esteem in which Dodgson's pictures are held by people fortunate enough to have seen them in the past, and evidence also of the credentials of the currently intending exhibitors.

One may in charity think that an effect of uncatholic taste in administering the display of a heterogeneous collection with inadequate hanging room is an understandable thing; also that some amount of bureaucratic crassness is another, separate, understandable thing. But encountered together they are harder to accept.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER PINSENT,
The Chestnuts,
Castle Hill, Guildford, Surrey.
January 9.

Not word perfect

From Mrs Jenifer Toller

Sir, In nostalgic mood, I purchased today what I believed to be a facsimile copy of the 1942 *Rupert Annual*. Copies of the 1940 and 1941 annuals which I had previously bought were described as "authentic facsimiles", but the 1942 copy, which suggested that it too was authentic, stated on the slip cover:

> Within the original publication … two stories, "Rupert and the Wrong Presents" and "Rupert at Sandy Bay", contain certain terminology that was acceptable at the time of publication but has been changed or deleted to bring it into line with present day sensibility.

The assumption of the publisher that so-called "political correctness" outweighs the importance of veracity has disturbing implications. Will the censor's pen be applied thus, in future, to material of a more erudite nature?

Yours faithfully,
JENIFER TOLLER,
125 Victoria Road, Cambridge.
January 7.

Performance of surgical operations

From Professor Sir Norman Browse, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Sir, The General Medical Council's code of conduct allows medically qualified practitioners to delegate treatments to other persons (report, "Hospital suspends nurse who operated", January 12), provided they are "satisfied that the person to whom they are delegated is competent to carry them out" and that "the doctor should retain ultimate responsibility … because only the doctor has received the necessary training to undertake this responsibility".

As far as surgical procedures are concerned, the Royal College of Surgeons of England believes that all operations should be performed by properly trained surgeons.

In those few circumstances where a surgical procedure might be delegated to a non-medically qualified person, we believe that responsible supervision can only be achieved by the presence of a properly trained medically and surgically qualified person at the operation — assisting or observing.

Furthermore, we believe that such delegation should be limited to a very few simple surgical techniques, such as skin suturing.

The only procedure beneath the skin that may be delegated to a non-medically qualified person who has been approved by my college is the removal of a normal vein from the leg for the purpose of a coronary bypass operation.

Those non-medically qualified persons who do this procedure (called cardiac surgeon's assistants) must be properly trained and certificated and follow a strict protocol. The responsible surgeon must be in the operating room at all times.

We believe that the UK should follow the rest of Europe and make it an offence for any non-medically qualified person to perform a surgical procedure on another human being — even with their consent — if that person is not under the care and close supervision of a fully trained, certificated surgeon.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN BROWSE,
President,
The Royal College of
Surgeons of England,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
January 13.

Worship in schools

From Dr Leonard Davis

Sir, Only a Tory former Education Minister, in this case Sir Rhodes Boyson, could emphasise that the importance of a daily morning assembly in schools is primarily for giving "discipline for the day" (report, January 6).

Dr Habgood, the Archbishop of York (letter, January 10; other letters, January 12), is quite correct in advocating the need for having less worship but of a better quality.

There are, too, universal truths and the widest possible range of rich and acceptable values found in other religions, many of which can be rewardingly and profitably incorporated into the underlying philosophy which should inform the education of our children today.

Yours faithfully,
L. F. DAVIS,
Springcroft, 6 Olivers Close,
Bartley Meadows, Totton,
Southampton, Hampshire.
January 12.

From Mr E. W. Lighton

Sir, Your leader, "A Church unmilitant" (January 7), glossed over the practical difficulties of collective worship in schools.

I write as a governor of a reasonably representative mixed comprehensive school with around 1,200 on the roll, aged from 11 to 18. The only area which can house such a number is the modern purpose-built sports hall. All have to walk varying distances (some considerable) in the open, thereby bringing in much dirt to stand (or sit on the floor in an undignified manner) for at least half an hour.

In winter the heating, designed only for the background of those engaged in strenuous activity, is totally inadequate. With assembly and dismissal times, at the very least 45 minutes is taken from a school day already seriously overcrowded by the demands of the national curriculum. The hall itself is then to be used for a variety of sports activities with its floor soiled (at best) and often wet.

The Archbishop clearly recognises that miracles akin to feeding the 5,000 are necessary to enable the pious resolutions of the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts to be fulfilled.

Yours truly,
E. W. LIGHTON,
11 Ryebank Avenue,
Coppenhall, Crewe, Cheshire.
January 9.

From Mr K. J. Shorey

Sir, Many teachers and parents who value religious assemblies in schools will have welcomed the Archbishop of York's comments. The practical difficulties of organising daily acts of collective worship for all pupils in secondary schools are well known. One has to ask why adolescent young people should be forced to worship God so much more frequently than do those who attend church faithfully every week.

As a Christian head teacher, I am wondering whether it is right to require pupils to worship a god they neither know nor revere. Because I love my wife as well as loving Jesus, should I expect others to send her a Valentine card?

Yours faithfully,
K. J. SHOREY (Headmaster),
Court Manor School,
Spring Woods, Fleet, Hampshire.
January 8.

From Mr David C. C. Watson

Sir, Dr Habgood's claim that "schools do not create Christians" (report, January 6) admits of many exceptions: some of India's and Africa's finest Church leaders became Christians in response to Scripture-teaching at school. It goes without saying that their teachers believed what they taught.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WATSON
(Missionary to India, 1947-70),
31 Harold Heading Close,
Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Relentless spread of the flatworm

From Mrs Elizabeth Platts

Sir, Far from having "just been identified as a major killer of earthworms" (Diary, January 10; see also report, January 11), the New Zealand flatworm (*Artioposthia triangulata*) has been recognised in Ireland as a major killer of earthworms for over 20 years.

Given the ability of the flatworms to live in virtually all soil types, and the lack of predators (their mucus makes them very unpalatable), their spread throughout the UK has seemed inevitable.

Modern agricultural practices mean that farmers no longer rely on earthworms for soil fertility, so their loss has been largely unnoticed or ignored. Like so many introduced alien species, *Artioposthia* has had a free run and is unlikely to be halted now.

Flatworms are notorious for their powers of regeneration and stamping on them is much more likely to increase their numbers. Keen Irish gardeners have been known to collect specimens (which although pinkish when newly hatched, are usually dark-brown to purplish on their upper surface, with thin beige bands along the edges of the flattened body) together with the egg capsules, and pour on boiling water.

Mature flatworms can extend to more than 10 inches and the shiny black oval eggs can be over half an inch — so they are not easily missed.

I am glad the Royal Horticultural Society is interested in the problem, but I hope it can suggest a more effective method of disposal than squashing.

Much more important — what is the effect of the flatworm on native woodland and grassland ecology? How long does it take for the earthworm/flatworm populations to reach an equilibrium? Or do the flatworm populations crash, making the eventual reintroduction of earthworms a feasible possibility? Please do report on this.

Gardeners can take some comfort: frogs and toads enjoy eating earthworms but will not touch the flatworms. So amphibians should be encouraged; they will now eat even more slugs than they do already.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH PLATTS
(Editor, *The Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 1976-88),
Belmont, New Road,
Littleton, Winchester, Hampshire.
January 11.

From Mrs Eva Crowe

Sir, My garden is riddled with monstrous flatworms but I could not possibly bring myself to "stamp on them", as recommended in your report.

My slugs are offered a hopefully pleasurable end in the pots of sweetened beer dotted around the garden. There must be a compassionate method of dispatching flatworms (and, for that matter, earwigs).

Yours faithfully,
EVA CROWE,
1 Lodge Cottages,
Crown Inn Yard, Axford,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
January 13.

Gender extension

From the Very Reverend Canon James Cunnane

Sir, The state of Israel long ago provided for the needs of a third gender (letters, January 4, 11) in the cubicles where travellers were interrogated and searched by security officials at Lod airport. The entrances were labelled "Men", "Women" and "Diplomats".

Arrangements have since, alas, changed, but their memory fondly remains.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CUNNANE,
Our Lady of the Taper
Catholic Church,
Cardigan, Dyfed.
January 11.

From Mr B. C. Thomas

Sir, In the mid-1980s the Military Command Swimming Baths in Aldershot labelled their changing rooms "Men", "Women" and "Officers".

They may still do so.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN C. THOMAS,
121 Kings Road, Fleet, Hampshire.
January 12.

From Mrs M. L. Donnelly

Sir, In Andover we do it differently. At our leisure centre there is a board in the reception office bearing the legend: "Male, Female, Pilots."

Yours faithfully,
M. DONNELLY,
9 Hillside Villas,
Charlton, Andover, Hampshire.
January 12.

From Mr Arthur S. Pook

Sir, Many years ago, when I was at school, we were taught that there were three genders, Masculine, Feminine and Neuter. (Grammar). There were also two sexes, Male and Female. (Biology). The two subjects seem to have become sadly mixed up these days.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR S. POOK,
5 Dundeugh Village,
St John's Town of Dalry,
Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

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COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
NORFOLK
January 13: The Earl of Airlie, KT (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 14: The Duke of York, Patron, this afternoon attended a presentation by the British Schools Exploring Society at the Royal Geographical Society, London SW7. Captain David Thompson was in attendance.

SANDRINGHAM
January 15: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Archbishop of York preached the Sermon.

The Countess of Airlie was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr Roger Harman (Headteacher of Flitcham Voluntary Aided School) was received by The Queen when Her Majesty presented a Bible to Miss Claire McShane for proficiency in Religious Instruction.

The Governor-General of Canada and Mrs Hnatyshyn have arrived at the House.

Birthdays today

Mr Colin Banks, graphic designer, 63; Sir Alastair Blair, former Writer to the Signet, 87; Mr Richard Burrows, chief executive and chairman, Irish Distillers Group, 49; Air Marshal Sir Robert Craven, 79; Sir Robin Dunn, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 77; Professor Roy Foster, Irish historian, 46; Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, metallurgist, 70; Sir Jack Layden, former chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 69; Professor Elaine Murphy, Professor of Psycho-geriatrics, 48; Mr R.L. Ormond, director, National Maritime Museum, 56; Miss N.S. Peppard, race relations consultant, 73; Mr K.H. Shackleton, artist and naturalist, 72; Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, geologist, 79; Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT, 74; Mr Cliff Thorburn, snooker player, 47; Miss Christine Truman, tennis player, 54; Lady Vaizey, art critic, 57; Professor Sir William Wade, QC, former Master, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 77; Mr James Watson, former chairman, National Freight Consortium, 60; Mr Michael White, theatre and film producer, 59.

Lynne Franks, the public relations consultant, is 46 today

Lord Steyn

The life barony conferred upon the Right Hon Sir Johan van Zyl Steyn, who has been appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, has been gazetted in the name, style and title of Baron Steyn, of Swafield in the County of Norfolk.

Appointment

Miss Suzanna Woollam to be an *Assistant Judge Advocate General.*

Bedgebury School

The Spring Term began on Tuesday, January 10, and will finish on Friday, March 31. Lower School Open Day is on Tuesday, January 31. 1995 is the 75th Anniversary of Bedgebury Upper School (Bedgebury Park School) and will be celebrated in a variety of ways, including the play *The Golden Masque of Agamemnon* on March 22 and 23, interschool sporting tournaments in period costume, concerts by current and previous music scholars and a Ball in the Summer Term. (School would be delighted to hear from Old Girls of Bedgebury Park School).

Mrs Anne Kaye, MA (Oxon), retires as Headmistress at the end of term after nineteen years of Headship, eleven at Bedford High School and eight at Bedgebury. Mrs Lindsey Jane Griffin, BA (Wales), B Phil (York), takes up her post as Headmistress in the Summer Term which begins on Tuesday, April 25.

Douai School, Reading

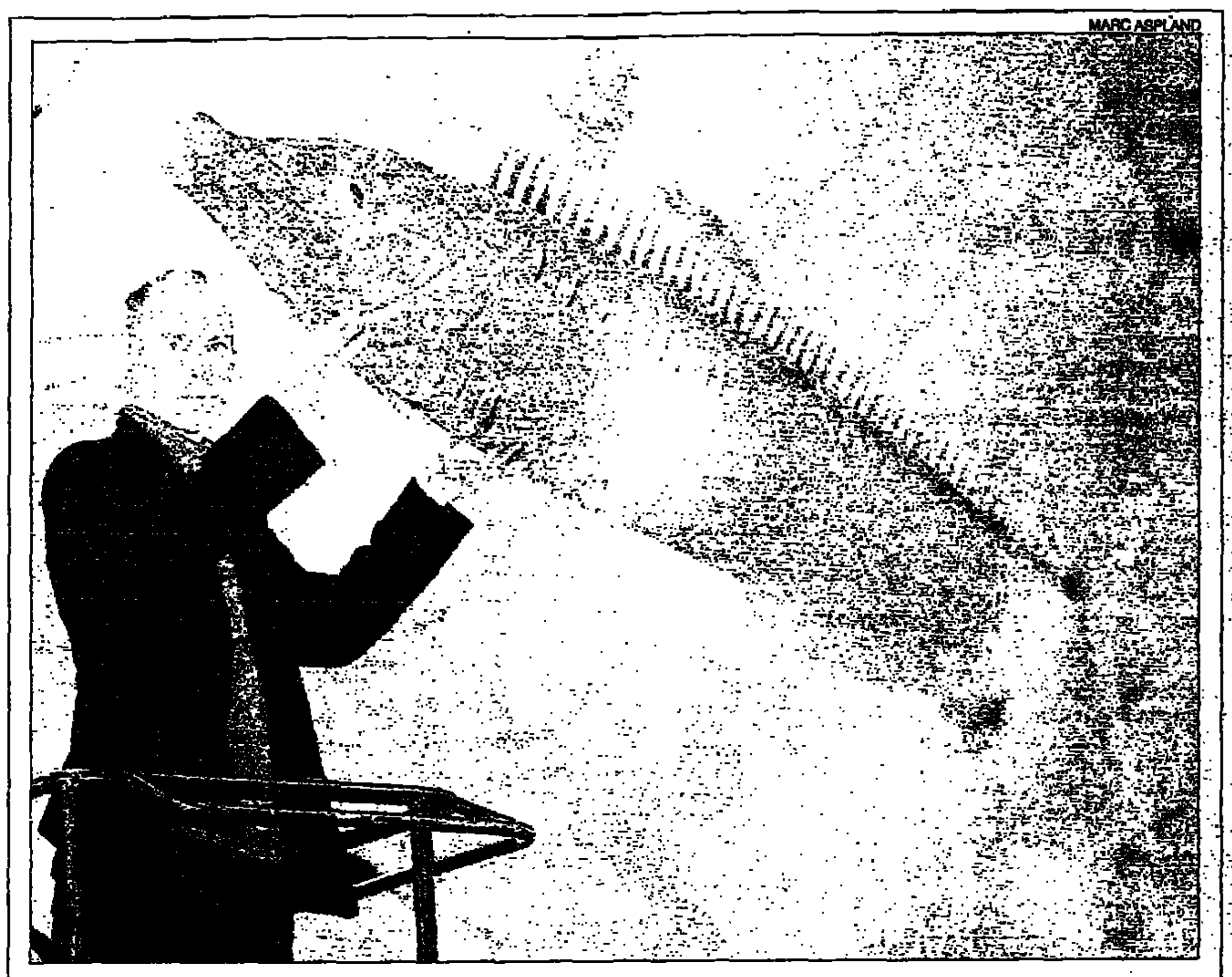
Easter Term begins today at Douai School. Captain of Soccer is Robert Jones and Captain of Fencing James McClement. An Open *Morning for prospective pupils* and their parents will be held on Saturday, February 11, and 10+ and 11+ Entry Tests will take place on *Saturday, March 4. The Douai* Rugby Sevens Tournament will be played on Sunday, March 12, and the Spring Concert will take place on *March 17 in the Haydock Hall.* Term ends after the Lenten Service in the Abbey Church on March 24.

Caistor Grammar School

The Governors are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Roger Hale, currently Deputy *Head, to be Headmaster, from* January 1, 1996, on the retirement of Mr Trevor Foulkes.

Award

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs has awarded *the Sir Percy Sykes* Memorial medal to Professor Akbar S. Ahmed, Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, the anthropologist and writer. *The medal is* awarded to those who make a notable contribution to promoting knowledge and understanding of *Asian countries and their cultures.*



MARC ASPLAND

Fish take flight

THE sculptor Jean-Luc Vilmouth with one of ten electromechanical fish being unveiled at Waterloo International station in London today. The fish, suspended from the concourse ceiling, *gently sway in the breeze then, thanks to* a computer link, speed up with the imminent departure of trains (Dalya Alberge writes).

It was the Channel Tunnel's resemblance to a silvery sand eel, as the artist puts it, that caught his imagination. The French sculptor's work won an *international competition held by the* Public Art Commissions Agency. His design was also influenced by the "animal appearance" of Nicholas Grimshaw's glass and steel terminal building. Vilmouth sought to suggest the building was a giant aquarium. His shoal is also intended to induce a sense of calm among nervous travellers.

Vilmouth, who lives and works in France, is represented in the Pompidou Centre in Paris and several other public collections. He was a postgraduate student at the Royal College of Art in London from 1976 to 1979. The sculpture will be unveiled by Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard Savage, poet, *London, 1697; Sir Ian Hamilton,* general, Corfu, 1853; Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, actor-manager, London, 1853; André Michelin, *pioneer of mass production of* motor tyres, Paris, 1853; Edward Gordon Craig, stage designer and director, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, *1872; Robert Service, poet, Preston,* 1874; Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar, dictator of Cuba 1933-49 and 1952-59, Oriente Province, Cuba, 1901: *Ethel Merman, singer, New York,* 1909.

DEATHS: Edward Gibbon, historian, London, 1794; Sir John *Moore, died of his wounds at the* Battle of Corunna, 1809; Léo Delibes, composer, Paris, 1891; Arnold Bocklin, painter, Fiesole, *Italy, 1901; Arturo Toscanini,* conductor, New York, 1957; Robert Van de Graaff, physicist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1967; A.J. Cronin, *novelist, Switzerland, 1981.*

The British expedition led by Ernest Shackleton reached the magnetic South Pole, 1909.

Prohibition was instituted in America, 1920.

Nylon was patented by Dupont, 1937.

General Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, 1944.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will attend a reception at the Hellenic College of London at 67 Pont Street at 7.00 to mark the college's 15th anniversary.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines

CAPTAIN: A J Lyall - Defiance as Capt SM2 11.7.95; A J S Taylor - Staff of CINCFLEET 28.4.95; F G Thompson - Rosyth 23.6.95.

COLONEL: R E Dillon - CTCRM as Comdr 30.6.95

LOCAL COLONEL: A J W Higginson - Salisbury 12.5.95.

COMMANDER: N J K Crews - Staff of FO Plymouth 11.4.95; T A Curd - BDS Washington 30.6.95; W D M Fairbairn - MOD London 19.5.95; N E Fletcher - MOD Portsmouth 19.5.95; E Fraser - Boxer in Cmd 19.4.95; P M Fyfe - MOD London *17.3.95; A Higham - MOD London* 24.3.95; R E Hodson - Faslane 24.1.95; J F C Lunn - MOD London 24.2.95; G J Merrett - Staff of CINCFLEET 14.7.95; I R Munro - Staff of FOSF Northwood 19.5.95; M U Sloan - MOD London 9.6.95; N P Smith - Cairo 24.3.95; J G H Tighe - SACLANT USA 19.5.95; R C Twitchen - Dryad 12.5.95; D H N Yates-Staff of FONA 16.6.95.

MAJOR: D G V Heaver - HQAFNORTHWEST 4.8.95; N P J House - HQRM 4.8.95; W R Maclennan - MOD London 30.6.95; J McCabe - HQRM 14.7.95; A B Thomson - CTCRM Lympstone 28.7.95.

Retirements

CAPTAIN: C J Esplin-Jones - 7.3.95

COMMANDER: G R Bartlett - 4.3.95; D Bates - 18.2.95

SURGEON COMMANDER: R Adley - 25.2.95; J W Turvill - 4.4.95

CHAPLAIN: R G Devonshire - 17.3.95

The Army

BRIGADIER: H H Kerr - To be Comd HQ BULFORD Area, 3.1.95

COLONEL: A W King-Harman - to LSP ABU DHABI UAE, 6.1.95

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: M J Anderson R Signals - To HQ RAO, 6.1.95; B W Ballinger RLC - to MOD, 3.1.95; N W Beswick RRF - To be CO Camb Univ OTC, 3.1.95; M J Dent R Signals - to JHQ Implem Tm, 3.1.95; M A Hart Cheshire - to HQ RAO, 6.1.95; P Lawless AAC - To Staff Coll (DS), 3.1.95; E W Marvin RLC - To be CO 151 Sp Regt RLC(V), 3.1.95; J P G Bolton RAMC - To be *CO 1 Armd Fd Amb, 3.1.95;* G W Lawrenson RAMC - To HQ BULFORD Area, 2.1.95; S P Lomax RADC - To Royal Brunei Armd Fcs, 4.1.95.

Retirements

BRIGADIER: I B R Fowler Late RA, 7.1.95; C J Marchant Smith Late GH, 9.1.95; J Restall Late RAMC, 3.1.95.

COLONEL: P R Bell Late RA, 6.1.95; D P Dunseath Late R IRISH, 3.1.95; R M Gamble Late RGJ, 3.1.95; O L Pugh Late ALC, 6.1.95.

Royal Air Force

AIR COMMODORE: H G Mackay - To HQ AIRCENT 20.1.95; G Skinner - To HQ LC 20.1.95.

GROUP CAPTAIN: C J Lampard - To MOD 16.1.95; J E Chandler - To NO. 30 MU SEALAND 19.1.95; J A McLoughlin - To HQ 11 GP 20.1.95; C R Morgan - To MOD 20.1.95.

WING COMMANDER: G F Hughes - To RAF COSFORD 16.1.95

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Roger Kent, Vicar, Newington w. Hartlip and Stockbury *(Canterbury): to be Chaplain, St* Clement's, Prague, Czechoslovakia (Europe)

The Rev David Kirkwood, Priest-*in-charge, St Philemon, Toxteth: to* be Rector, St Philemon, Toxteth (Liverpool)

The Rev Peter Leitch, Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Rouen: to be Senior Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Rotterdam. (Europe)

The Rev Andrew Rowe, Team Vicar, Wellington and Dist Team Ministry: to be Rector, Chewton Mendip w. Ston Easton, Litton and Emborough (Bath and Wells)

Memorial service

Dr A.T. Richardson

A memorial service for Dr A.T. (Tony) Richardson, former consultant rheumatologist at the Royal Free Hospital, London, was held *on Saturday at St John's Wood* Church, NW8. The Rev Mark Oakley and Prebendary Peter Speck, Chaplain of the Royal Free *Hospital, officiated. Mr Raymond* Richardson, son, read the lesson and Dr Peter Clarke, of King's College London, gave a reading. *Mr Peter Styles and Dr Euan* Campbell of the Royal Free Hospital, paid tribute.

James Mansie

A Service of Celebration for the life of James Mansie, LDS, MRCS LRCP, FDSRCS, Consultant Emeritus to Guy's Hospital, will be held in the Chapel, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, SE1, on Wednesday, January 25, 1995, at noon.

Latest wills

Mrs Amy Rebecca **Pateman**, of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,089,325 net.

She left £104,000 and some effects to personal legatees, and the residue equally between the Cancer Research Campaign, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, PDSA, British Heart Foundation, National Kidney Research Fund, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, RNLI, RNIB, British Diabetic Association and Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Mr Thomas Lockhart **Greenshields**, of Axminster, Devon, the sculptor, left estate valued at £158,607 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.W. Bewsey
and Miss S.L. Steele

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and *Mrs Arthur Bewsey, of Camber*ley, Surrey, and Sonya, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Steele, of Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr A.C. Cheesley
and Miss V.J. Green

The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mr Roger Cheesley, of Amberley, West Sussex, and of Mrs Elizabeth Thompson, of Charlwood, Surrey, and Victoria Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Green, of Brentwood, Essex.

Mr A.M. Duguid
and Miss P.M. Moll

The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr Ronald Duguid, of Norton Place, Lincolnshire, and Mrs Anne Duguid, of Stockbridge, Edinburgh, and Petra, daughter of De Heer and Mevrouw Hendrik Moll, of Oosterbeek, The Netherlands.

Mr S.T.A. Gibbons
and Miss S.E.M. Holly

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Don *Gibbons, of Penryn, Cornwall,* and Mrs Heather Hailey, of Boscombe, Dorset, and Sarah, daughter of Mr Robert Holly, of Ferndown, *Dorset, and Mrs Marion Craven,* of Boscombe East, Dorset.

Mr H.L. Howard-Sneyd
and Miss U. McCarthy

The engagement is announced between Henry, eldest son of Mr Thomas Howard-Sneyd and Mrs Serena Cook, and Ursula, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael McCarthy.

Dr R.H. Insall
and Dr L.M. Machesky

The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Donald Insall, of Kew, and Laura, daughter of Denis and Kathleen Machesky, of Walled Lake, Michigan, USA.

The Hon M.J.H. Lopes
and Miss J.C.S. Underwood

The engagement is announced between Massey, elder son of Lord *Roborough, of Wellington, Somer*set, and the Hon Mrs Robyn Lopes, of Plymouth, Devon, and Jean, daughter of Mr Justice *Underwood and of Mrs Sally* Sorell, of Hobart, Tasmania.

Mr R.E. Jones
and Miss M.A. Murphy

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs P.R.E. Jones, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, and Melissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.B.E. Murphy, of Orton, Northampton*shire.*

Mr R.R. Mott
and Miss L.M. Townsend

The engagement is announced between Richard Robert, son of the late Mr Reginald Robert Mott and of Mrs Evalyn Jean Mott, of Altea, *Spain, and Louise Mary,* daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Collingwood Townsend, of The Old Rectory, Scrivelsby, Lincolnshire.

Mr S.L. Neaman
and Miss T. Dickinson

The engagement is announced between Sam, son of Professor and Mrs Yfrah Neaman, of Islington, London, and Tess, daughter of the Very Rev Hugh and Mrs Dickinson, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr A.M. Reid
and Mrs A.J.W. Bruell

The engagement is announced and *the marriage* will take place shortly between Andrew Reid, of Publow, Avon, and Audrey Bruell, of Kensington, London.

Mr M. Renwick
and Ms M.J. Summers

The engagement is announced between Martin Renwick and *Melanie J. Summers, of Fulham,* London.

Mr J.V. Wheeler
and Miss K.L. Trotter

The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr J.V.T. Wheeler, of Bitterley Court, Ludlow, Shropshire, and of the late Mrs Geraldine Wheeler, and Katharine, second daughter of Mr and Mrs James Trotter, of The White House, Ardingly, Sussex.

Marriage

Mr J.P.C. Edwards
and Mrs M.P.T. Neill

The marriage took place on Saturday, January 14, in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy of Mr Julian *Edwards, son of Mr Jeremy Ed*wards and the late Mrs Jenifer Graham, to Mrs Kirstin Neill, widow of Matthew Neill and *daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian* Tegner. The Rev David Burgess officiated.

The bride was attended by Miss *Cecilia Neill. Mr James Sharp was* best man.

Nature notes

SMEWS are *small duck from* northern Russia that belong to the group of "sawbills": they dive for their food, and have tooth-like edges to their beaks for holding the slippery fish that they catch. There are now *small parties of them winter*ing on large English lakes and reservoirs: most of these are the red-headed females and first-year birds. The drakes, which are snow-white birds with fine pencil markings, winter mostly in Holland, though some have been reported here.

On the East Coast, hen *harriers soar over the farms* and saltmarshes looking for small animals: they flap their heavy wings a few times, then glide with their wing-tips turned upwards. They too are commoner in Holland: on the *new polders, they sit on tele*graph poles at the edge of the towns, and are watched by commuters in their cars.

The smew

Snowdrops are in bloom in *damp woods and under* garden trees: each flower nods in the wind at the top of a leafless stem. Winter aconites are also pushing up and will soon be opening: they have a ruff of small leaves beneath *the yellow flowers.* ***DJM***

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Your nation is brought to ruin: want of knowledge has been *the ruin of my people.* As you have forsaken the teaching of God, so will I, your God, forsake your children. Hosea 4 : 5,6 (REB)

BIRTHS

BILSLAND - On Friday December 23rd 1994, to Tracy (née Dunster) and Mark, a daughter, Rachel Harriet Amanda, a sister for Benjamin, Robbie and Emily.

BRAITHWAITE *- On 9th* January 1995, to Frances and James, a son, Charles John Geoffrey, a brother for Annabelle.

HARRIS - On January 5th, at Winchester Hospital, to Stephanie (née Walmsley) and Richard, a daughter, Florentina Verity, a sister to Annabelle and Charles.

MILLS *- On 9th January* 1995, to Kerry (née Burnett) and Peter, a daughter, Olivia Anne, a sister to Harriet.

MOLONEY - On January 9th 1995, to Isabel (née Cowie) and Eamon Philip, a daughter, Olivia Jean.

MORGAN - On January 11th 1995, to Gillian (née Loder) and James, a son, Mathew James David.

SCOTT-HOPKINS - To Carey (née Egan), wife of Anthony, on 7th January 1995, a son.

DEATHS

BAUGHAN - On 6th January, peacefully at home, Professor Edward Christopher Baughan CBE, aged 81 years. Beloved husband of the late Jacqueline, much loved father of Michael, Julian and Annabelle, father-in-law of Moira and grandfather of James and Nicholas.

BEALE - Joan Anne, widow of Joseph Vaux Beale, beloved mother of David, Philippa and Barbara and much loved grandma of Clare, Jack and Francis. *Funeral Service at* St Barnabas Parish Church, Weeke, Winchester, on Thursday 19th January at 2.15 pm. Donations, if desired, to The Brendon Nursing Trust, Park Road, Winchester SO23 9BE.

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DEATHS

BEGERNIE - On January 12th, Rev. Doreen Begernie of Folkestone, much loved sister of Lorna and Pat. Funeral Friday January 20th 1.15 pm St John's Church, Folkestone. Family flowers only. Donations for C.P.A.S., Tachbrook Park, Warwick CV34 6NG. No letters please.

BURGESS - on Thursday 12th January Ivy Elizabeth aged *85 unexpectedly after a short* illness. Much loved Mum and Gran. Funeral on Thursday 19th January at North Sheen Cemetery at 2.30pm. All enquires to F Paine, 6 Coombe Lane, Raynes Park.

COX - On January 12th at Ashburton Hospital, Captain Henry Meyrick (Pip) aged 82 years, of Owlacombe Mines, *Bickington, husband of Ailsa,* dearest father of Fiona and Sean, dearest brother of Jean. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer or R.D. and E. Hospital Kidney Unit, Sid Ward c/o F. Christophers & Son, Ashburton.

CRAMP - Bridget Angela. On 11th January, unexpectedly but peacefully at home, aged 76. Most beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and a staunch, wise, generous friend to so many of all ages who will *miss her support, inspiration* and humour. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, on Monday 23rd January at 12 *noon. Family flowers only,* but donations if desired to The East London Schools Fund c/o J.H. Kenyon, 74 Rochester Row, SW1, tel: (071) 834-4624.

GARSIDE - Suddenly on January 11th 1995, David, aged 49 years, cherished and loving husband and father of Chris, *Bindy and Richard* and dearest son of Kathleen. Private family funeral service at Witchampton on January 16th. Service of Thanksgiving at Wimborne Minster on Saturday January 21st at 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers for the British Heart Foundation may be sent c/o Charles Small & Son Funeral Directors, 15 West Street, Wimborne, Dorset.

DEATHS

GRASSIE - On January 8th 1995, peacefully following a long illness borne with characteristic courage, Joseph, late of Aberdeen, dearly loved and loving husband of Vivienne. He was a very special person.

HARDING - On January 12th 1995 peacefully at his home in Endon, Stoke-on-Trent, surrounded by his loving family, after a short illness, bravely borne with courage, dignity and humour. Roy Frederick, B.E.M. aged 66 years. Dearly loved and loving husband of Anne-*Marie, devoted father and* friend to Jim and Richard, much loved father-in-law of Kathryn and Kathy and adored grandad of Sarah. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to local Rotary Charities. Funeral arrangements and enquiries to S Sigley & Sons Funeral Directors Telephone Leek 0538 382048.

HARRINGTON - Peacefully in her sleep in hospital on January 11th 1995. Anne Beatrix aged 83 years. Dear *wife of the late Group Capt.* C.P. Harrington and mother of Sally and Barney. Her funeral service takes place at the West Suffolk Crematorium Friday 20th January at 12.45 pm. No flowers by request, but if desired donations may be sent to Save the Children Fund c/o L. Fulcher, 80 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1NX.

HETHERINGTON - Geoffrey Gaskell aged 85 on 11th January 1995, after a short illness. Greatly loved husband of Jill and beloved father of Catherine and Elizabeth. He will also be deeply missed by Bill and Chris and his grand children, Anna and Alison. Cremation private. Service of thanksgiving at St James's Church, Prebend Street, Islington, London N1. On Wednesday 18th January at 3pm. Flowers to W.G. Miller Funeral Director, 95 Essex Rd, N1 2SJ by 10.30am or donations to Amnesty International, 99 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 4RE.

JONES - On January 12th after a long illness Philip *Rufus Jones T.A. husband of* Felicity of Ravensthorpe Northampton. Funeral Service at Ravensthorpe Parish Church at 2.00pm on January 19th 1995.

MURLAND - On January 14th peacefully after a long illness patiently borne. James Robert William (Mick) dearly loved husband of Amy and dear father of Mary. Funeral Service at Killyleagh Parish Church, Killyleagh, County Down on Tuesday 17th January at 11.30am.

DEATHS

PEARSON - On January 12th in York peacefully after an illness faced with courage and fortitude. Mother of Judith and David, and to Nerys. Loving and loved grandmother of Simon, Rebecca, Lucy, Jonathan and Laura.

PICKARD - Daphne Evelyn (Daffy) on 13th January at home. Greatly beloved wife of 'Pick' for 49 years and devoted and much loved mother of Cherril and Gabrielle and grandmother of Alice and Lucy. The Funeral will be private at her specific request.

POLACK - Ronald, passed peacefully away on Friday 13th January 1995, aged 89 years. Private cremation.

PRATT - On January 11th peacefully, Peter. Beloved husband of Patience and brother of Michael. Service in St John's Wood Church *Thursday 19th January at* 2pm followed by cremation at Golders Green. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St John's Hospice c/o Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, Grove End Road NW8.

PRICE *- On Friday January* 13th, in Townlands Hospital, Henley-on-Thames, Elizabeth, aged 87 years, widow of Alan, dearest *mother of Helen and Tim,* loved mother-in-law of Douglas and a much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. She was courageous and uncomplaining to the end. Funeral Service 11.30 am at St Nicholas Church, Rotherfield Greys, on Thursday 19th January. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Peppard Ward, Townlands Hospital, where she was cared for with such kindness.

STADLEN - Eric, suddenly and peacefully at his home on 10th January 1995 while preparing for a journey, aged 77 years. Dearly loved father of Anthony, Jonathan and Paul, grandfather of Rachel, Sholl and Darrel. Much loved and appreciated by family and friends. Funeral Thursday 19th January at the Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, Golders Green, at 2 pm in the West Chapel. Enquiries and flowers to W.H. Putnam, Funeral Directors, tel: (081) 205-6620.

DEATHS

TILLEY - On January 11th 1995, peacefully in hospital, John Floyd Tilley. Beloved husband of Audrey and devoted father to David and Christopher. Dear grandfather to Clare, Fiona, Hannah and Sarah. Memorial Service at Reigate Methodist Church, High Street, Reigate, on Thursday 19th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

WAKEFIELD - On January 13th John Arkell, aged 82, peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of Stella, loving father of Christopher, Anne and Colin and devoted brother, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service at Burford Church on Wednesday 18th January at 2pm. Flowers to E Taylor & Son, 19A Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon by 11am please.

WILLIAMSON - On January 13th 1995, Lieutenant Commander Albert Charles, Royal Navy, aged 85 years. Dearly loved husband for 61 years of Dorothy Ruth (decd.), father of John Charles. Funeral takes place on Wednesday 18th January at Charing Crematorium, Kent, at 4 pm. All enquiries to Romney Marsh Funeral Services tel: (01797) 366432

WOLRIGE GORDON - On Friday January 13th 1995, Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Hallhead and Esslemont, formerly Grenadier Guards, much loved husband of Rosemary. Funeral in St Mary's on the Rock, Ellon, on Thursday January 19th at 11.30 am. Memorial Service to be held in *Edinburgh later.*

WRIGLEY On 13th January, Michael Harold of Ganton, after a short illness. Much loved husband of Phillida and dearly loved by Diana, Nicholas, Mark & Julia and his six grand children. Funeral at St Nicholas Church, Ganton on Wednesday 18th January at 11.30am. Family flowers only.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LUBBOCK - A Memorial Service will be held for the late Hon. Helen Anne Boyd Lubbock at Edzell Church on Friday January 20th at 2.30pm and then at Central Hotel, Church Street, Edzell.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

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SIR ALEXANDER GIBSON

Sir Alexander Gibson, CBE, founder of the Scottish Opera Company and its long-time artistic and musical director, died in hospital in London, following a heart attack, on January 14 aged 68. He was born in Motherwell on February 11, 1926.

IT WAS basically one man's drive and inspiration which led to the formation of Scottish Opera and that man, Alexander Gibson, conducted the new company's first performance, *Madame Butterfly*, in July 1962. For the next twenty-five years he was the company's artistic (1962-85) and musical (1985-87) director. When he resigned in 1987 he was given the title of Founder and Conductor Laureate.

This long career as an opera conductor and administrator, which started at Sadler's Wells where he was made musical director when he was 30, the youngest man ever to hold that post, did not preclude equal fame in the concert hall. He conducted throughout Europe and even more widely in America, where from 1981 to 1983 he was principal guest conductor of the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

He championed new music, but his special love outside opera was Sibelius, and the Finnish composer came at the top of the substantial list of recordings he made, many of them with the Scottish National Orchestra.

Alexander Gibson remained true to his upbringing north of the border, where he was educated at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, Glasgow, and he was Scottish to the core throughout his life. His first experience of opera was when he was taken at the age of 12 to see *Madame Butterfly* at the Glasgow Theatre Royal, a prophetic experience.

After service with the Royal Signals from 1944 to 1948 he went to the Royal College of Music, where he conducted *Cosi fan tutte* using an orchestra — unusual there in those days when two pianos were the norm. He studed further in Salzburg (under Markevitch) and Sienna and made his professonal conducting debut at Sadler's Wells when he was 25 with *The Bartered Bride*. The early 1950s were spent between Rosebery Avenue, then the home of Sadler's Wells, and engagements with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Gibson was careful not to be classifed as an "opera conductor", but nevertheless he found himself as Sadler's Wells musical director by the time he was 31.

Shortly afterwards came the offer of the conductorship of Scottish National Orchestra, which after a succession of Central Europeans in the post wanted someone British at the helm. Gibson once recalled that he spent a sleepless night writing down the pros of such a move on one side of a large notebook and the cons on the other. But probably it was the Scotsman in him that made the decision.

He arrived in Glasgow determined that his operatic experience would not be wasted. Scotland heard little professional opera outside the Edinburgh Festival and Gibson, urged on by a number of compatriots in the Sadler's Wells Company, intended to rectify that. In 1962 Scottsh Opera was born with *Butterfly* and Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, the latter a notably bold choice in those days. The start was a success and almost immediately Gibson was joined by a young executive who was running the New Opera Company from the Wells, Peter Hemmings, as the first general administrator.

The combination was an excellent one. Gibson, for all his charm and good looks, was basically a shy, unassuming man. Hemmings was far more able to argue in committee, to fight for money and push his ideas through. For the next 15 years together they were to see the reputation of Scottish Opera rise and rise.

There were memorable performances, among them Berlioz's *The Trojans*, a complete *Ring* and a famous run of *Cosi fan tutte* with Janet Baker and Elisabeth Harwood as the sisters from Ferrara. It was Scottish Opera — and Gibson — which enticed Janet Baker onto the opera stage and turned her into an actress. Alexander Gibson was ambitious; he set his sights high and drew the whole of the operatic spectrum into them. He was also hard-working; about a third of Scottish Opera's performances were conducted by him.

The all-round success of Scottish Opera could not last forever and two events affected both its standards and Alexander Gibson. The first was the departure of Peter Hemmings to run the Australian Opera. The other was the need for the company to employ its own orchestra. The Scottish National had given marvellous service but was quite properly concerned that the increasing length of the Scottish Opera season severely reduced its own time in the concert hall.

Impressive new productions were to be seen, including a number by the young director David Pountney. But there was a feeling that the new orchestra was no match for the old: some of the players had been hastily picked and there were complaints that Gibson's beat was not clear enough. To these he crisply replied that he was there to make music, not to beat bars.

In 1985 the board decided that a change needed to be made, despite Gibson's all-round public popularity and his readiness to espouse the avant-garde (he stoutly defended many of the more eccentric productions of the time). The first choice was David Atherton, but negotiations fell through and the post eventually went to the American John Mauceri.

After taking the title Conductor Laureate — he had already handed over the SNO to Neeme Jarvi in 1984 — Gibson returned to conduct the occasional production. But a good deal of his operatic work was thereafter done in America, including Los Angeles (now run by his ex-colleague Peter Hemmings) and Kentucky, which was in the hands of another Scottish Opera alumnus, Thomson Smillie. His long association with the RPO continued with the recording of a Sibelius cycle and he had completed some recordings for CD of works by Berlioz with the orchestra shortly before his death. He also opened the English National Opera's 1994-95 season with a new production of *Tosca* in September last year.

He was appointed CBE in 1967 and knighted in 1977 and had a number of honorary doctorates. In 1991 he became President of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

His wife Veronica, whom he married in 1959, and three sons and a daughter survive him.

STAFFORD SOMERFIELD

Stafford Somerfield, Editor of the *News of the World*, 1960-70, died in hospital in Ashford, Kent, on January 13 aged 84. He was born on January 9, 1911.

AN ASSERTIVE and flamboyant Fleet Street figure, Stafford Somerfield spent a quarter of a century on the staff of the *News of the World*, taking over as Editor at a time when its circulation was declining from its previous peak. By strengthening the paper's investigative journalism and through his use of the memoirs of film stars and other figures in the news, particularly if there was some notoriety attached to them, Somerfield reversed this trend, giving the paper a more raunchy image. This was reinforced by the *News of the World*'s frequent brushes with the Press Council, which had cause to censure his methods on several occasions.

Somerfield's career spanned the latter phase of the era of the Carr family, owners of the paper for more than seventy years. He played a highly publicised role in fighting off a takeover bid by Robert Maxwell and he was still at the helm of the *News of the World* when it was bought by Rupert Murdoch.

His abrupt dismissal by the new proprietor in 1970 was the stuff of Fleet Street legend. Though surprised at the time Somerfield was philosophical about it: "That's showbusiness, that's the game," was his comment to waiting reporters.

Stafford William Somerfield was a Devonian, the son of a Methodist lay preacher. He was educated at Ashleigh Road School, Barnstaple, and his journalistic apprenticeship was on the *Express and Echo* in Exeter and the *Bristol Evening World*. In 1934 he moved to Fleet Street and spent five years on *The Daily Telegraph* and a brief spell on the old *News Chronicle* before the outbreak of war interrupted his career. He enlisted in the Queen's Westminsters as a rifleman, transferring to The Gloucestershire Regiment in which he was commissioned and reached the rank of major.

After the war he was recruited to the *News of the World* by the then deputy-editor and later Editor Robert Skelton, a former *Telegraph* colleague, over a drink after a chance meeting in a Fleet Street bar. He became successively foreign editor, features editor, editor of the northern edition in Manchester and deputy editor. Eventually in 1960, he was appointed editor.

At that time the sales of the *News of the World*, which a few years before had soared to more than eight million, were falling off. Besides expanding the paper's role in investigative journalism Somerfield encouraged the publication of sensational memoirs, two of the most controversial examples of which were the personal stories of the film star Diana Dors and one of the central figures in the Profumo affair, Christine Keeler.

Both these accounts (and others) earned strictures, particularly from the Press Council, but Somerfield argued that such items were only a part of the paper which also contained more serious matter — he cited an article by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the same issue as the Dors memoirs.

On another occasion, however, Cardinal Heenan, then Archbishop of Westminster, withdrew an article he was to have contributed because of the Keeler memoirs. Whatever the controversy caused by Somerfield's choice of stories and his treatment of them, his editorial policy had a beneficial effect on circulation, and in commercial terms he was certainly a success.

When in 1968, the eccentric Professor Derek Jackson, a cousin of Sir William Carr the chairman, decided to sell his shares to the highest bidder, it set the scene for a bitter takeover struggle which ultimately marked the end of the Carr family's long association with the paper.

Robert Maxwell, then a publisher and Labour MP with aspirations of Fleet Street proprietorship, made a bid for control of the *News of the World* organisation. Somerfield, by then also a director, sprang to the aid of the ailing Carr in fighting off the Maxwell bid. He wrote a long and strong leading article in which he coined the much quoted description of the *News of the World* as being "as British as roast beef and Yorkshire pudding". Rupert Murdoch then reached a deal with the Carr family which gave him control and provided him with the foundation on which to build his British newspaper empire.

Somerfield briefly continued as editor after the change of ownership but differences of view emerged on policy and the position of the editor and his reponsibility for the content of the paper. Matters came to a head in February 1970 with his sudden and dramatic dismissal in a three-minute confrontation, the brevity of which inspired a journalist friend who had suffered a similar fate to inquire of Somerfield: "Why did it take three minutes, you talkative bastard?"

Somerfield left Fleet Street with a substantial pay-off and a consultancy contract and went to live in Kent where he bred pedigree dogs. He became chairman of the magazine *Dog World*, prompting the comment by another colleague that under Somerfield the magazine would doubtless adopt the slogan "All doggy life is there".

He had written a book in 1950 about the murderer John George Haigh, whom he had visited in the condemned cell. In 1979 he published a light chronicle of Fleet Street reminiscences, *Banner Headlines*, and in 1985 *The Boxer*, which reflected the other interests in his life.

His first marriage, by which he had two daughters, was dissolved in 1951. His second wife died in 1977, and later that year he married his third wife Ferelith, who survives him with the two daughters of his first marriage.

KAY LONG

Kay Long, president of Avon Red Cross, 1974-82, died in Bath on January 3 aged 83. She was born on February 16, 1911.

AS A consequence of the trend for families to disperse across the country, many of the great family names of Britain's provincial towns have begun to disappear. In the West Country, one such dynasty was the Long family whose last patriarch in the area, Alderman Walter Long, was a Bath-based solicitor, a one-time mayor, an adviser to the exiled Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and a chairman of the local evening newspaper. His widow Kay Long was a typically conservative Englishwoman and an excellent organiser, who devoted her life to the British Red Cross and many other good causes.

Anne Catherine "Kay" McSwiney was one of five children of a Catholic landowning family from Cork. In 1928 she went to Bristol to acquaint herself with a branch of the family who lived in the area and also to study nursing. Five years later she married Walter Long, whose dying wife she had nursed, and made her home in Bath.

Walter Long was a senior partner in Titley Long and Co (now Thrings & Long), a Bath solicitors' practice. His appointment as the Mayor of Bath during Coronation year, 1937, made Kay at 26 the youngest ever Mayoress in the city's history. It also brought her into contact with a very broad cross-section of the Bath community. For instance, the Longs befriended Emperor Haile Selassie while he was in exile in Bath during the late 1930s, ensuring that his bills were met and smoothing his path with English bureaucracy. She also knew the late Cardinal Heenan when he was a parish priest in the city.

During the Second World War, Kay Long served with the Women's Voluntary Service. Afterwards she put her nursing skills to good use by working as a volunteer with the British Red Cross, becoming divisional president in Bath in 1948. Her husband, who had become a city alderman and chairman of the *Bath Evening Chronicle* (as it was then called) died in 1956, and she subsequently threw herself even more energetically into her voluntary work, overseeing a significant growth in the charity's volunteer strength. She was appointed president of Avon Red Cross in 1974.

Kay Long travelled extensively on behalf of the charity, working on its diversification into welfare work as well as its traditional role in first aid training. She was indignant at the Red Cross's introduction of compulsory retirement for volunteers at 70, but defiantly vowed to carry on: "I shall work as a driver, help with fundraising — anything they ask me to do. I'll never desert them!"

She remained full of energy well into her eighties, and bought a new car only three months ago. She was also a keen rider, a familiar sight at equestrian events in the area.

She leaves a son and a daughter, Bridget Parker, who won a gold medal in the three-day horse trials at the 1972 Munich Olympics, and who is currently chairman of the British Olympic equestrian selectors.

PROFESSOR GEORGE SERIES

George Series, FRS, Professor of Physics at Reading University, 1968-82, died on January 2 aged 74. He was born on February 22, 1920.

GEORGE SERIES was an outstanding university teacher, leader of research, and college tutor.

Born at Bushey in Hertfordshire, he was a small child when his parents moved to Stratfield Saye in Berkshire; from there he won a scholarship to Reading School. In 1938 he gained an Open Scholarship to St John's College, Oxford, but his studies were interrupted by the Second World War. He saw service with the Friends' Ambulance Unit in Egypt, Italy and in Yugoslavia, where, characteristically, he stayed to complete his work although this delayed his return to Oxford to 1945. Then, in two years he took a First in Physics.

Always quiet, calm, courteous but incisive, Series had the ideal temperament for scientific research, starting with high resolution optical spectroscopy of the hydrogen atom and of ionised helium. His supervisor was H. G. Kuhn, with whom he continued as a post-doctoral colleague.

In 1950 he was appointed a Nuffield Research Fellow, becoming a university lecturer a year later. With Kuhn he modernised the optical and spectroscopic experiments on the undergraduate practical course in the Clarendon Laboratory. He became a lecturer at St Edmund Hall in 1953, then a fellow from 1954 to 1968, when he was appointed Professor of Physics at Reading University.

In Oxford, after a demonstration of the Lamb shift in ionised helium as a splitting of the spectral lines, he applied the technique of optical-radiofrequency double resonance to excited states of atoms. An experiment on the hyperfine structure of potassium produced a "first," a determination of the nuclear electric quadrupole moment.

Wide-ranging research work then included studies of the coherent scattering of resonance radiation, light beats, "level crossing" techniques and resonance fluorescence, together with intensity correlations in double resonance experiments. At Reading this work continued with theoretical studies and the application of tuneable lasers to novel spectroscopic measurements. He published two books: *The Spectrum of Atomic Hydrogen* (1957) and *Laser Spectroscopy and other Subjects* (1985).

His research was recognised by the award of a doctorate of science from Oxford University in 1969, and two years later he has elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1972 Series was William Evans Visiting Professor at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and his international reputation continued to grow. Between 1970 and 1975 he was elected to fellowships of the Royal Astronomical Society, the American Physical Society and the Optical Society of America.

In 1982 he received the Meggers Award and Medal of the Optical Society of America, and was appointed Raman Visiting Professor of the Indian Academy of Sciences, of which he became an honorary fellow in 1984.

For many years he acted as a governor of Reading School as representative of the University of Oxford and of Bearwood College, the Royal Merchant Navy School. He was an honorary editor of the *Journal of Physics B (Atomic & Molecular Physics)*.

He is survived by his wife Annette (née Pepper), three sons and a daughter.

ON THIS DAY

January 16 1913

Lloyd George's National Insurance Act 1911 covered manual workers and those earning less than £3 a week. The State contributed 2d, employers 3d, and employees 4d, weekly. The medical profession hated it and workers were not enthusiastic (preferring higher wages).

MEDICAL BENEFIT IN OPERATION.

Medical benefit under the Insurance Act began yesterday, but at present it is too soon to say how far the insured persons have availed themselves of the attendance and treatment offered to them. The machinery is not yet in full work. There does not seem, however, either in London or the country, to have been any rush of patients for treatment by panel doctors, and in many cases the insured persons have not yet selected their medical attendant.

One doctor in a district in the South-East of London stated, in reply to inquiries last night, that he had not received the necessary papers until that afternoon. He had in the evening some 20 insured persons waiting in his surgery for the signing of their tickets by virtue of which he would be allotted to them as their medical adviser. This practitioner is one who has gone on the panel under protest and with the greatest reluctance, and he is accepting only those who were already his patients. There seems to be a likelihood of some difficulty in the City, as only one doctor out of 44 on the panel is resident there, though there are in that area five "lock-up" surgeries, which are attended for a limited time in each day by the practitioners to whom they belong. The question has been raised as to whether the one doctor who resides in the City is to do the whole of the night work. In Lewisham there are 79 medical men on the panel, of whom only 29 are resident.

Doctors in various parts of London not on the panel are already being informed by their regular patients that the sickness benefit certificates of insured persons will only be accepted by the authorities if signed by panel doctors. Some doctors who decline to join the panel are treating insured persons for nothing, pending developments, and some insured persons, not being able to discover any doctor by whom they would like to be treated, are applying to non-panel doctors. One doctor in South Lambeth had three applications of this kind yesterday from insured persons who wished to pay him his full fees. In answer to a question in the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Masterman stated that the number of doctors who have signed agreements to attend insured persons with the London Insurance Committee, and whose names have been issued on the borough lists, is 780. Some more names had been received since, and he understood that the number was now nearly 800.

In reply to inquiries they have received the Insurance Commissioners have issued an official intimation that all insured persons who are members of approved societies (except certain special classes, such as soldiers and sailors now serving) are now entitled to medical benefit under the Act, no matter when they entered insurance, or whether they have since been out of employment. The provision of medical attendance and treatment for those members who were over 65 years of age on July 15, 1912, and who are not entitled to medical benefit at the expense of the State Insurance funds, can be arranged privately, as before, by their societies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED

[illegible]

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It is your support through legacies and voluntary contributions that allows us to meet our daily running costs of £100,000 and provide our lifeboatmen with the boats and equipment they need.

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY JANUARY 16 1995

NEWS

Blair vow to renationalise railways

■ Tony Blair pledged that Labour would return the railways to public ownership as he began a high-profile campaign to win support for his proposals to rewrite Clause Four of the party's constitution.

John Prescott, the deputy leader, will head the party's working party on railway ownership. "The aim is clear: to ensure a publicly owned, publicly accountable railway," Mr Prescott said .... Pages 1, 2, 18, 19

Courts martial 'breach human rights'

■ A dossier of 12 cases has been presented to the European Commission of Human Rights alleging that the British court martial system is in breach of Article Six of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair trial .... Page 1

Valet suspended

The Prince of Wales's valet has been suspended after his disclosure to a Sunday newspaper of alleged intimate details and photographs of the Prince's relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles .... Pages 1, 3

Historic race marred

Britain's first Sunday horse-racing meeting at which on-course betting was allowed was marred by the death of a bookmaker and of a horse .... Page 1

Portillo in EU plea

Michael Portillo urged the Prime Minister to mount a hard-line campaign to curb the power of the European Union as part of a strategy to re-unite the Conservative Party .... Page 2, 18

Blair offside

Tony Blair was accused of being out of touch with football fans by Manchester United after he attacked the record £7 million transfer of Andy Cole .... Page 2

Dooley arrested

Wade Dooley, the policeman who was an England rugby union international, was arrested by officers from his own force after a crash in which a 14-year-old girl was seriously injured .... Page 3

New route to islands

An electronic superhighway has replaced the age-old Road to the Isles for families seeking to leave behind city stress .... Pages 5, 19

Peer quits Garrick

One of the most eminent members of the legal profession, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, has resigned from the Garrick Club in protest over its refusal to admit women .... Page 6

Teaching shortfall

Almost half of the teachers in some subjects have no qualifications in that discipline beyond A level, a survey of English secondary schools has shown .... Page 8

Parkhurst pay-out

The Prison Service has paid more than £200,000 to hundreds of building workers who have been barred from working at Parkhurst since the escape of three inmates .... Page 9

Egypt mediates

Egypt was leading urgent Arab mediation efforts to defuse tension between Saudi Arabia and Yemen after reports that they had reinforced troops along their disputed, oil-rich border where there have been clashes .... Page 10

Millions greet Pope

About four million Filipinos gathered to greet the Pope, forming the biggest audience he has ever addressed .... Page 11

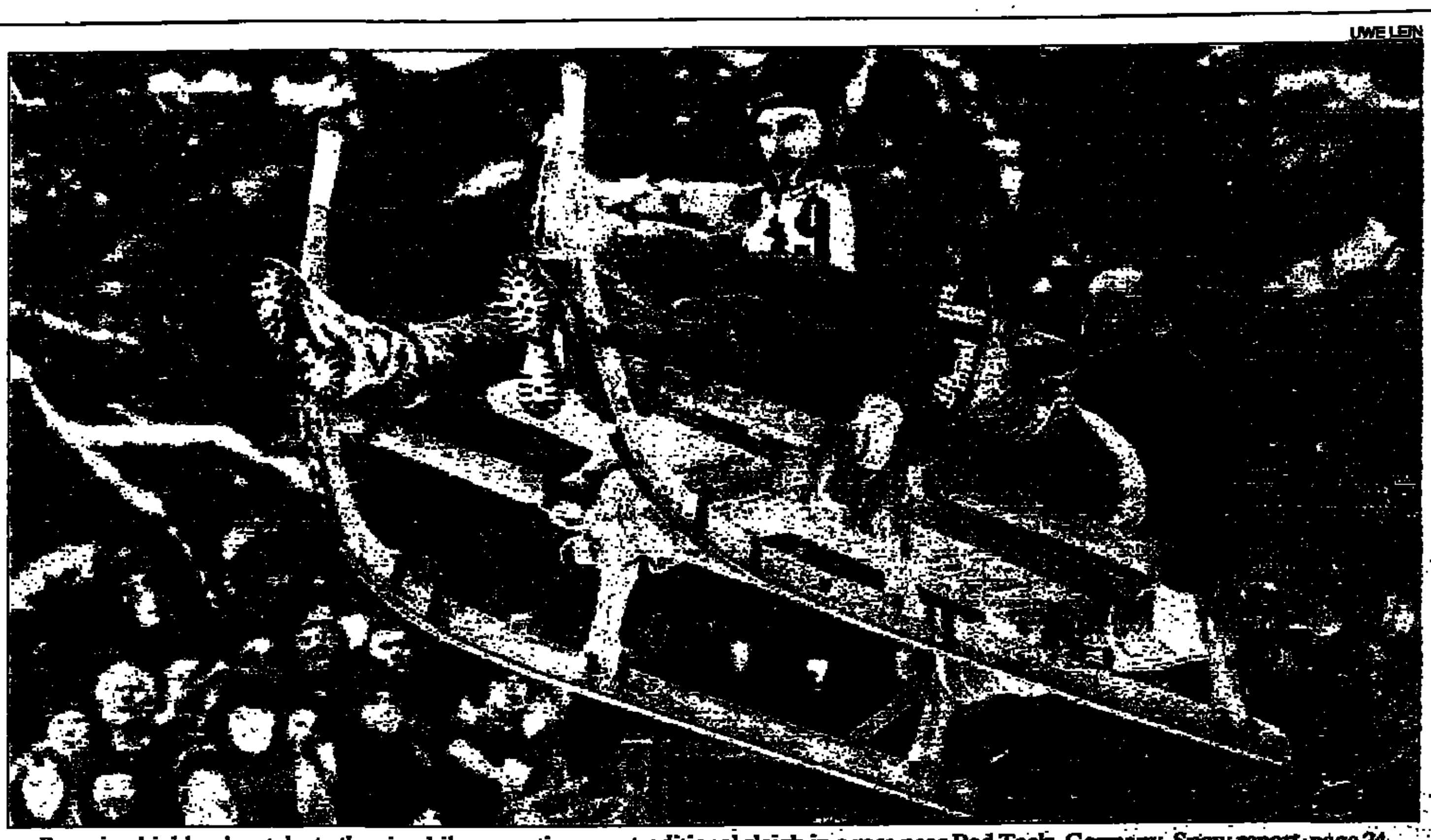
Military clampdown

Moscow has ordered disciplinary action against officers involved in the military operation in Chechenia who refuse to obey orders .... Page 13

Naked truth about Ivy League photos

■ Thousands of members of America's ruling elite have learned that they were tricked into posing naked while at university for a now-discredited experiment, and that the pictures still exist. Hillary Clinton and George Bush were among those photographed in the nude as part of a strange rite of passage known as "posture photos" .... Page 1

UWE LEIN



Bavarian highlanders take to the air while competing on a traditional sleigh in a race near Bad Toelz, Germany. Snow report, page 24

BUSINESS

Power: GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French engineering group, is poised to win contracts worth £1 billion for power stations in China and the Philippines .... Page 44

Drugs: ICI and Glaxo have signed a joint venture to manufacture the first CFC replacement for pharmaceutical use .... Page 34

Saatchi: The finance director of Saatchi & Saatchi said the company would vigorously defend itself against any legal action from shareholders over the sacking of Maurice Saatchi, the former chairman .... Page 34

Gas: A consortium including British Gas is organising the finance to develop one of the largest gas fields in the world, in Qatar .... Page 41

ARTS

Hopes dashed: William Walton's opera *Troilus and Cressida* is rarely performed, so Rodney Milnes had his hopes high when he went to see Opera North's production. He was disappointed .... Page 14

Sexually charged: Christina Rossetti's poem *Goblin Market* is so vivid a hymn to the undertow of repressed sexuality that it is a wonder more composers have not been attracted to it. Aaron Jay Kernis has plugged the gap .... Page 14

Tested by time: The revival of Howard Barker's *The Castle* is to be recommended mainly to Barker groupies and fans of the troupers wrestling with his work .... Page 15

Stifling a yawn: Sarah Brightman in a dull production of *The Innocents* .... Page 15

FEATURES

Lost species: The release of eight wolves in Yellowstone National Park in the Rocky Mountains is a landmark for conservationists. Would it work on the Isle of Rhum? .... Page 16

Two-faced city: The film *Shallow Graves* is about murder, betrayal, fear, suspicion and dismemberment. Its setting is perfect: Edinburgh. Where else do violent crime and utter respectability sit so cosily together? .... Page 17

EDUCATION

Quiet revolution: Hundreds of schools and colleges are switching to modular A-level courses that have low failure rates and regularly examine pupils. Ben Preston reports .... Page 37

SPORT

Football: A knee injury sustained by Mark Hughes while scoring Manchester United's goal in a 1-1 draw against Newcastle United made Andy Cole's arrival at Old Trafford appear all the more timely .... Page 23

Tennis: Gone is the superficial vaudeville act as Andre Agassi presents a new image for his Australian Open debut .... Page 24

Cricket: Alan Lee considers the World Series Cup finals to be a fraud, with spectators not knowing which team to cheer .... Page 25

Football: Oliver Holt risked health and happiness in the North Stand at Stamford Bridge and found gloom with a view in the company of morons .... Page 29

Skiing: Luc Alphand, of France, collected an unprecedented double in Kitzbühel to overshadow the sixth successive victory of Alberto Tomba .... Page 29

Rugby union: Relegation from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship haunts Harlequins after suffering another defeat at the hands of Wasps, their London rivals .... Page 32

Speed skating: The favourites took a tumble, but Matthew Jasper kept his feet to capture the British short-track championship .... Page 33

Racing: Mysilv started to repay her owners for the record 155,000 guineas she cost by winning her first race for them .... Page 34

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **ACTION REPLAY**
The memoirs of an Arsenal fan are brought to life in the play *Fever Pitch*

■ **HARD LABOUR**
Bernard Levin on *the political dinosaurs* who rise up to confront Tony Blair

TV LISTINGS

Preview: David Warner and Prunella Scales play members of a family split by religion in Michael Eaton's drama *Signs and Wonders* (BBC2, 9.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss finds herself charmed by talking parrots in **The Natural World** (BBC2) .... Page 43

OPINION

Labour's rail naivety

To turn the Stock Market into Labour's ally in scuppering an ill-conceived Tory privatisation plan: that might be the first solid victory for Mr Blair's modernisers .... Page 19

A mission to care

The Red Cross works best when it works alongside professionals. But it must never let either government or professionals take it for granted .... Page 19

No man an island

Romantic escapism depends on not actually being made to escape .... Page 19

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Apparently 49 per cent of the public told opinion-pollsters that they see the Tories as the party of higher taxes, and only 23 per cent saw Labour in that light. How unrealistic can people be? .... Page 18

MATTHEW PARRIS

What might the penguin colonies of Antarctica's Paulet Island be compared to? Perhaps a sanctuary of lightly pregnant nuns .... Page 18

OBITUARIES

Sir Alexander Gibson, founder of the Scottish Opera Company; **Stafford Somerfield**, former editor of the *News of the World*; **Kay Long**, Red Cross organiser .... Page 21

LETTERS

Income support for mortgage payments; advance of the flatworm; who may perform surgical operations .... Page 19

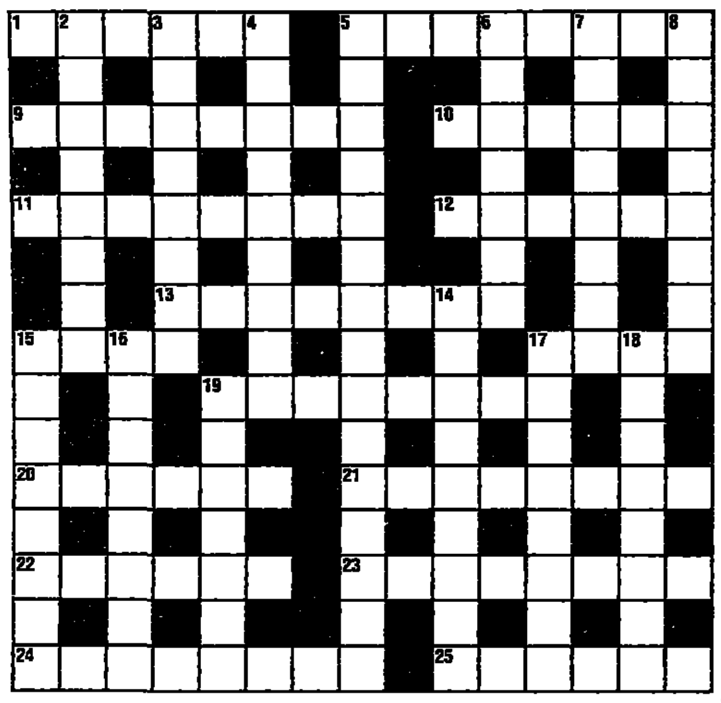
THE PAPERS

President Clinton is right to use this country's enormous resources to help Mexico. A financial panic is like a fire burning out of control, unpredictable in its direction and victims — *The Washington Post*

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 17, 23, 32, 38, 42. Bonus ball: 48

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,753



ACROSS

1 Articles about the city (6).
5 Reject lead story with royal connection (8).
9 Call by philosopher to cherish educational skill about the past (8).
10 Becoming respectable (6).
11 Republican in Niagara Falls is a land reformer (8).
12 Flower in trouble had receded (6).
13 Rebel Muscovite left for this sort of warfare (8).
15 Farm building built by soldiers (4).
17 This man's in a whirl (4).
19 Evaluates a series of points (8).
20 Sailor has to achieve his ambition (6).
21 Get a doctor if I have a spasm in the sea (8).
22 Cultivating nearly all fruit (6).
23 Bizarre demise — it must be documented (8).
24 Real gain made by an African (8).
25 Fighter in the ring rushed right round (6).

DOWN

2 Object to girl whose name you can't remember (8).
3 Transport to the door (8).
4 Ridiculous rules in ship causing bad temper (9).
5 Again thinking about kindness to others (15).
6 Publicise protection of communications (7).
7 Under pressure Liberal MEP lied clumsily (8).
8 Girl loses a friend in the usual way (8).
14 Sailors hunched round the gold, imbibing (9).
15 Police chief covered function with bugs (8).
16 Getting ready to fight to set up a dynasty (8).
17 Fruit tree gave rise to the Fall? That's right! (8).
18 Produce note in Pitman for boss (8).
19 A telephone that's run for the workshop (7).

KNOCKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,752 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.59in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, Fife, 3.7hr

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.59 am	Sun sets 4.22 pm
Moon sets 7.13 am	Moon rises 4.32 pm

Full Moon today

London 4.22 pm to 7.58 am
Bristol 4.32 pm to 8.08 am
Edinburgh 4.12 pm to 8.30 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 8.16 am
Penzance 4.49 pm to 8.14 am

FORECAST

☐ Eastern England will be mainly dry. Wales and western England will be cloudier with a little rain or drizzle, becoming heavier and more persistent later in the day and extending to most central and northern parts of England by evening.

Rain, heavy at times, over western Scotland and Northern Ireland will spread to eastern Scotland during the morning. Clearer weather with showers, some wintry, will follow to most parts in the evening, the showers chiefly in the north and west.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** mainly dry with bright spells. Wind fresh southerly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central S, SW, NW, Central N, NE England, Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** rain becoming more persistent and heavier at times. Wind strong southerly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** rain, heavy at times turning to snow over high ground in the north. Wind southerly strong, locally gale, easing later. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** rain, often heavy and turning to snow later on hills. Becoming clearer with scattered showers by evening. Wind southerly gale or severe gale moderating later. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** unsettled with rain or showers in most parts, but temperatures near to or a little above the normal.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.9	0.06	9	48	r
Anglesey	0.1	-	10	50	c
Aspatria	-	0.02	9	48	d
Aviemore	2.3	0.05	8	46	sh
Belfast	0.9	0.04	9	48	r
Birmingham	0.4	-	9	48	c
Bognor R	0.4	0.01	10	50	c
Bournem'th	-	0.01	10	50	d
Bristol	0.1	0.02	11	52	d
Buxton	0.2	0.01	8	46	d
Cardiff	0.1	0.02	10	50	c
Clacton	-	0.02	9	48	c
Colwyn Bay	0.5	0.02	13	55	sh
Cromer	0.1	-	9	48	c
Doncaster	0.7	-	11	52	c
Eastbourne	-	0.02	9	48	c
Edinburgh	3.1	0.01	10	50	c
Eskdalemuir	1.5	0.24	8	46	r
Exmouth	0.8	-	11	52	c
Fishguard	-	0.04	10	50	d
Folkestone	0.9	0.05	9	48	c
Guernsey	-	0.01	10	50	c
Hastings	0.1	0.02	9	46	sh
Hayling I.	0.3	0.03	10	50	c
Herne Bay	1.1	0.06	9	48	c
Hove	-	0.01	8	46	du
Isle of Man	-	0.01	10	50	d
Jersey	-	-	9	48	c
Kinloss	2.0	0.03	10	50	sh
Leeds	0.2	0.03	11	52	d
Lerwick	0.3	0.23	5	41	sn
Leuchars	3.7	0.01	10	50	r
Littlehmptn	-	0.01	9	48	d
Liverpool	0.1	-	11	52	c
London	-	-	10	50	c
Manchester	0.1	-	11	52	c
Margate	X	0.07	9	48	c
Minehead	0.4	-	11	52	c
Morecambe	-	0.03	9	48	r
Newquay	0.2	0.01	11	52	c
Nottingham	0.4	-	9	48	c
Penzance	0.3	0.02	11	52	d
Plymouth	-	-	10	50	c
Ross-o-wye	0.3	-	10	50	c
Sandown	0.1	-	10	50	d
Saunton Snd	0.1	0.03	10	50	c
Shanklin	-	0.05	9	48	c
Shrewsbury	0.6	-	11	52	c
Skegness	0.4	-	8	46	c
Southend	-	0.03	9	48	c
Southport	0.5	0.12	10	50	d
Southsea	-	0.02	10	50	c
Stornoway	2.8	0.43	5	41	sn
Swanage	-	0.01	10	50	d
Teignmouth	0.3	-	11	52	c
Tenby	-	0.03	11	52	d
Tiree	2.8	0.27	7	45	h
Torquay	0.1	0.02	11	52	d
Tynemouth	0.1	-	11	52	c

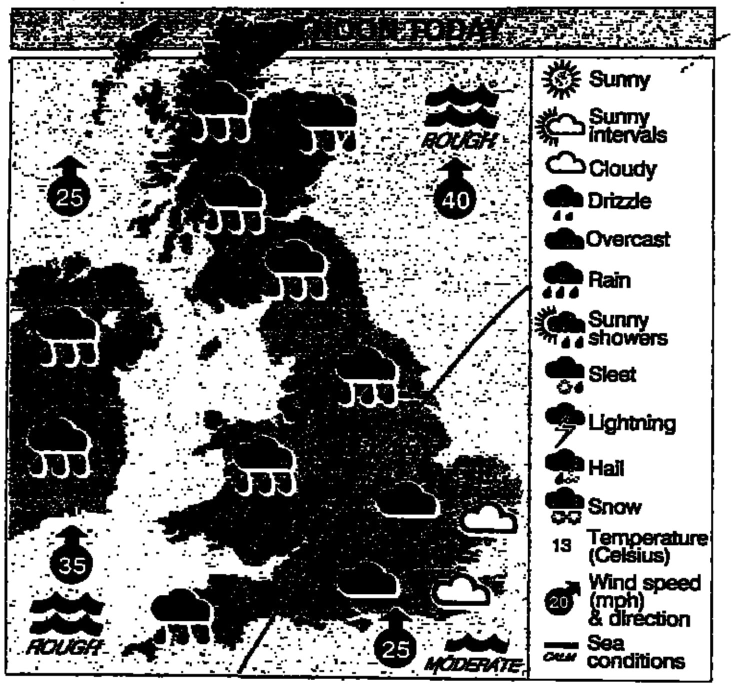
These are Sunday's figures

ABROAD

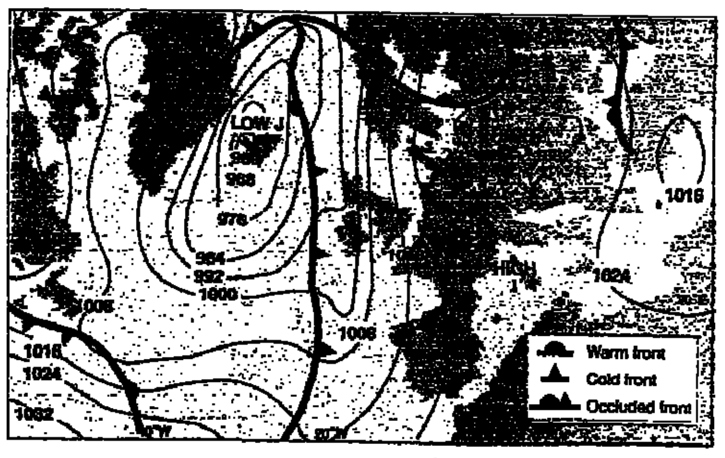
	C	F	
Ajaccio	13	56	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f
Alex'dria	14	57	s
Algiers	10	50	c
Amst'dm	8	46	d
Athens	8	46	c
Bahrain	19	66	f
Bangkok	30	86	s
Barbados	29	84	f
Barcelona	10	50	s
Beirut	19	66	f
Belgrade	-3	27	c
Berlin	3	37	r
Bermuda	-	--	
Biarritz	5	41	s
Borde'x	5	41	s
Brussels	7	45	d
Budapest	-2	28	s
B Aires	33	91	s
Cairo	17	63	s
Cape Tn	31	88	s
Chicago	4	39	c
Ch'church	19	66	-
Cologne	7	45	c
C'phagn	5	41	s
Corfu	11	52	s
Dublin	11	52	f
Dubrovnik	-	--	
Faro	16	61	s
Florence	6	43	s
Frankfurt	2	36	c
Funchal	19	66	c
Geneva	0	32	s
Gibraltar	14	57	s
Helsinki	2	36	c
Hong K	18	64	s
Innsbrck	-4	25	f
Istanbul	4	39	r
Jeddah	28	82	s
Jo'burg	18	64	d
Karachi	21	70	s
L Palmas	21	70	s
Le Touqt	9	48	f
Lisbon	8	46	s
Locarno	2	36	s
L Angels	15	59	c
Luxembg	3	37	fg
Luxor	21	70	c
Madrid	7	45	s
Majorca	13	55	s
Malaga	15	59	s
Malta	11	52	f
Melb'rne	27	81	s
Mexico C	..	--	
Miami	25	77	r
Milan	5	41	s
Moscow	-6	21	sn
Munich	0	32	c
Nairobi	27	81	f
Naples	7	45	f
N Delhi	13	55	f
N York	16	61	r
Nice	11	52	s
Oslo	0	32	s
Paris	7	45	c
Peking	5	41	s
Perth	34	93	s
Prague	0	32	c
Reykjavik	-3	27	sn
Rhodes	10	50	r
Rio de J	31	88	f
Riyadh	21	70	s
Rome	8	48	s
Salzburg	-1	30	c
S Frisco	14	57	f
Santiago	-	--	
S Paulo	32	90	f
Seoul	2	36	s
Sing'por	30	86	f
St'kholm	1	34	s
Strasb'rg	1	34	d
Sydney	25	77	f
Tangier	17	63	s
Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Tenerife	21	70	s
Tokyo	6	43	s
Toronto	12	54	f
Tunis	7	45	r
Valencia	13	55	s
Vanc'ver	8	46	r
Venice	3	37	s
Vienna	1	34	c
Warsaw	0	32	c
Wash'ton	21	70	f
Wel'ngton	19	66	s
Zurich	-3	27	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low J will move slowly northeastwards and will gradually fill. The ridge of high pressure around high I will decline, but high E will be stationary with little change in central pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1:14	6.47	1:35	6.56
Aberdeen	1:01	4.07	1:16	4.25
Avonmouth	6:49	12.38	7:11	12.27
Belfast	10:44	3.41	11:07	3.12
Cardiff	6:33	11.22	6:55	11.07
Devonport	5:16	5.28	5:40	5.10
Dover	10:45	6.20	11:05	6.39
Dublin	11:30	3.97	11:43	3.73
Falmouth	4:36	4.87	4:54	4.64
Glasgow	0:22	4.13	0:28	4.55
Harwich	11:37	3.71	11:53	3.79
Holyhead	10:03	5.35	10:21	5.17
Hull	6:00	6.72	6:13	7.14
Ilfracombe	5:34	8.65	5:57	8.70
King's Lynn	6:56	5.90	6:11	6.06
Leith	2:09	5.11	2:29	5.32
Liverpool	10.58	8.91	11:18	8.87
Lowestoft	9.15	2.35	9.25	2.53
Margate	11:50	4.41	—	—
Milford Haven	5.52	6.54	6.13	6.52
Newquay	4.40	6.22	4.58	6.21
Oban	5:22	3.76	5.52	3.85
Penzance	4:24	5.20	4.40	5.13
Portland	6.13	1.95	6.40	1.81
Portsmouth	10.54	4.51	11:24	4.52
Shoreham	10.45	6.89	11.13	5.94
Southampton	10:28	4.43	10:52	4.34
Swansea	6:03	8.89	6.27	8.86
Tees	3.18	4.78	3:35	5.01
Walton-on-Nze	11:25	3.78	11:38	3.97

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صكذا يعني الاصل

TENNIS

24 Sabatini rises to first major challenge

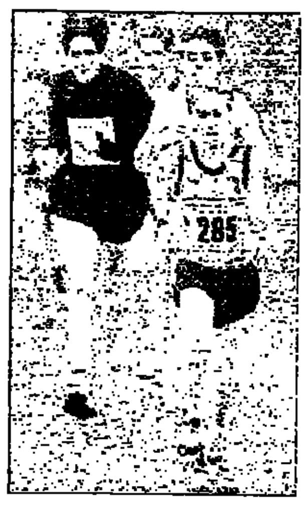
CRICKET

25 Australian public unmoved by local dispute

SKIING

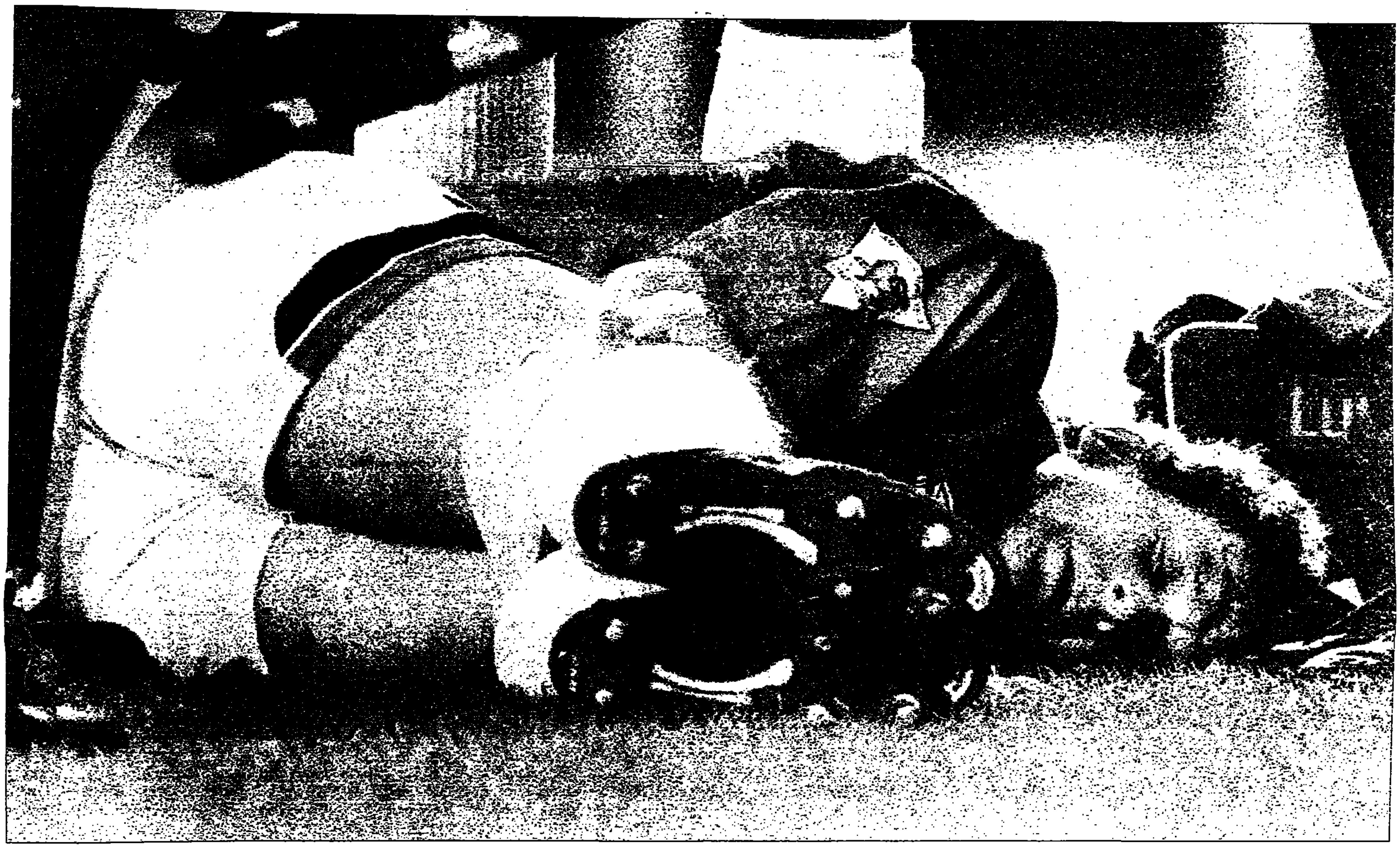
29 Tomba's style graces Kitzbühel slopes

SCHOOLS SPORT



33 Leading the field a cross country dance

TIMES SPORT



Hughes lies motionless, legs bound together, before being carried off on a stretcher after scoring the goal that put Manchester United ahead at St James' Park yesterday. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

Manchester United striker hurt scoring goal that earns draw

Injury fells gallant Hughes

Newcastle United	1
Manchester United	1

By Rob Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SO MUCH raw emotion, so much money, so much for the price of Cole had flowed between the Tyne and Old Trafford, but come the weekend Newcastle United and Manchester United fought a tenacious draw that profited mainly Blackburn Rovers in the FA Carling Premiership race. Manchester United are now five points behind, Newcastle 14 behind ... and yet something closer to the bone, something that puts all the millions in football into perspective, happened in the thirteenth minute when Mark Hughes became in an instant the hero and the victim of all this frenetic chase for glory.

Hughes may well have scored his 116th and last goal in the red of Manchester United. He may be for sale as soon as he is fit, replaced — if that can be done — by Andy Cole. But as he stretched to score, so typically brave and spectacular, he did not have eyes for the late lunge of the goalkeeper, Pavel Srnicek, coming towards him feet-first, connecting with the studs on the inside of the knee. There was a sickening eeriness around the place. The Geordies in the 34,471 in the crowd may have begun their afternoon pouring willpower, determination and support with their chants of "Kee-gan! Kee-gan!", but they know their football better than most.

The hush affected everyone. You did not need to have played the game as daringly or as successfully as Hughes to fear that his pain and the collision had cost him this match and maybe many more. He was taken off on a stretcher, knees bound together, and the bulletin last night from the hospital spoke of a deep gash and suspected ligament damage. And after all that had gone in the week, the face of Alex Ferguson, the manager who had potentially replaced Hughes's thrilling combative style with the stealth of the £7 million Cole, was subdued not because his team had slipped further behind Blackburn, but because a servant who had turned last season's form with his magnificent goal in the FA Cup semi-final was now lying in jeopardy.

"The instant he went down, I knew it was bad," Ferguson said. "We didn't deserve a point today. There was a great show of loyalty from the players and the crowd for the manager [Kevin Keegan], you could see that, you could feel it. They were pumped up, we knew what to expect, but after losing Hughes, and having to replace Nicky Butt who had double vision, I was forced to rely on two men who were not fit."

Ferguson's captain, Steve Bruce, soldiered on with flu, Roy Keane struggled with a recurrence of a hamstring strain. And, though Newcastle responded valiantly around the leadership of Venison and the eagerness of Clark in the second half, it took a complete entrenchment of a Manchester team rebuilt around three centre halves to last out the game.

"I knew the fans would get behind the team," Keegan enthused. "It wasn't for me, this is their club, they are Geordies, and what I most wanted to see I got in the second half: a response from my players. So, Alex [Ferguson] is happy with his point, I'm happy with the performance, and somewhere Kenny Dalglish is happier than the pair of us."

The Blackburn manager certainly must have enjoyed the first half, for with Newcastle tentative, with Manchester intent on operating an offside trap, and with both sides intensely closing down in midfield, he was watching his main contenders run each other ragged without showing the form that Manchester will need this weekend when Rovers visit Old Trafford.

And yet, in that bitter-sweet thirteenth minute it had looked as if Manchester United were to take everything from this game. Keane had crossed the ball at an angle from the right, Cantona, who once again got off after a petulant kick at a player, jumped out of the way of it: some thought it was a dummy, to my eye he did not relish the lunging tackle aimed by Peacock. In any event, the ball bypassed the pair of them, Hughes threw his body at it, connecting beautifully with the right foot, alas being caught late by the goalkeeper.

Perhaps it was that which depressed the atmosphere for the rest of the half. Perhaps it was the tentative nature of Kitson and Clark, who snatched at and missed three opportunities.

But as the prolonged half ended Newcastle twice warned that they had the fight for the contest. First Howey, with his left foot, mishit the ball from only six yards when Fox, by now redirected into the centre, had won it in the air. And then, on the stroke of the half-time whistle, Peacock swung the ball forward, Kitson deftly laid it back, and Lee struck the top of the crossbar with his shot from 12 yards.

It became fractious, with bookings for Sharpe, Keane and Elliott for fouls in as many minutes. But after 67 minutes, Kitson forced his way into the hearts of the Geordie supporters.

He is one himself, he has lacked confidence since joining the club from Derby County, but now he was fulfilled. Elliott lofted the ball up to him, Kitson took it on the chest, was a mite lucky that it bounced back to him off the collar-bone of Pallister, but then was opportunism personified in driving the ball between the legs of Schmeichel.

Ten minutes after that Kitson, resurgent, rose to a cross from Hottiger, glanced the ball towards goal, and Schmeichel flicked it almost nonchalantly over the bar.

But late, very late, United had chances to win it. Keane had broken through, one-on-one with the goalkeeper, but Srnicek rushed towards him and saved with his legs. Then, Cantona struck wide with his left foot and lastly, after a breathtaking run from the halfway line by Giggs and a perceptive chip to the far post, Cantona stretched, connected, but propelled the ball right across the face of the inviting goal. "That could have won it," Ferguson observed, "but it would have been more than we deserved."

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-5-1): P Srnicek — M Hottiger, D Peacock, S Howey, J Beresford — R Fox, R Lee, B Venison, L Clark, R Elliott — P Kitson
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, S Bruce, G Pallister, L Sharpe — N Butt (sub: D May, 46min), B McClair, R Keane, R Giggs — E Cantona, M Hughes (sub: P Scholes, 14)
Referee: S Lodge

☐ Allen Tankard helped Port Vale to ease their relegation worries in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division by scoring one of the goals in their 2-0 win over Tranmere Rovers yesterday.

Tankard, who risked a hamstring injury because Vale were without four other defenders, hit a 20-yard drive to give Vale the lead. Martin Foyle made it 2-0.

Terrace view 25
Middlesbrough beaten ... 26
Blackburn forge ahead ... 27
Results and tables 28

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Blackburn	23	55	+34	DWWWW
2	Manchester Utd	24	50	+25	WDDWD
3	Liverpool	24	45	+24	WWWWL
4	Notts Forest	24	42	+10	DWLWL
5	Newcastle	23	41	+16	DDLDD
6	Tottenham	24	39	+6	WDWWW
7	Wimbledon	24	35	-8	WWDWW
8	Leeds	23	34	+2	WDLDD
9	Norwich	24	33	-3	LLWLL
10	Sheffield Wed	24	32	-1	WWWDD
11	Manchester City	24	31	-5	LLDDD
12	Chelsea	23	30	-1	DLLDD
13	Arsenal	24	29	0	DWLLD
14	Southampton	24	28	-5	LDDDD
15	QPR	23	[illegible]	-5	WDDWL
16	Crystal Palace	24	26	-5	DDLLW
17	Coventry	24	26	-19	DLLLD
18	Aston Villa	24	25	-5	DWDDW
19	West Ham	24	25	-8	DLWLL
20	Everton	[illegible]	23	-10	DLWLD
21	Ipswich	24	19	-21	DLLWW
22	Leicester	24	15	-21	LDLLL

Change ▤ Up Stayed the same ▤ Down

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Imlach continues to bowl the die-hards over

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

So, it's third down and Super Bowl to go. Or is it? There is a widely-held view among American football *cognoscenti* that the annual battle to be the best team was actually resolved last night, when the San Francisco 49ers took on the Dallas Cowboys for the NFC championship. The AFC championship game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the San Diego Chargers was, according to the same theory, little more than a sideshow, whose only merit was that at least it ensured that the Buffalo Bills would not be making it five lost Super Bowls in a row.

Now many of you, I know, will be quite lost already. In fact, rather more of you will be lost than would have been the case had I written a similar introductory paragraph six or seven years ago, when British interest in American football was at its peak and Channel 4 could look forward to an audience of more than three million for its live coverage of the Super Bowl in a fortnight. This year, they will be doing well to attract something over half that. But attract it they will.

Long gone are the days when British presenters had to call time out every five minutes to explain the rules. After 12 years of regularly televised American football in this country, there is now a knowledgeable core audience, a fact that, just before Christmas, persuaded Channel 4 to confirm its continued coverage for another three years.

These British die-hards have been enjoying a vintage January. Not only do they get two live games on Channel 4 (the NFC championship last night and the Super Bowl in a fortnight), but the satellite channel, NBC SuperChannel, has also been showing the best of American college football. The Orange Bowl and the Rose Bowl were both shown live over the new year, while recorded action from the Cotton Bowl and Fiesta Bowl were shown in recorded form a week later.

CNN, the satellite news channel, has also been increasing its coverage, partly though its thrice-daily *World Sport* programme and partly through its regular Sunday afternoon *NFL Preview*, a programme that gives its Channel 4 counterpart, *Blitz*, a good run for the end zone.

Channel 4 may have confirmed its commitment, but it has yet to decide whether Trans World International (TWI), maker of both *Blitz* and *The American Football Big Match*, will continue to produce its coverage. But the omens for TWI must be good. Since taking over from Cheerleader, TWI's tactic has been not to make American football more Anglo-friendly, but more American. Local commentators, like Fox's hugely well-paid John Madden, are by and large allowed to get on with it, with only occasional explanatory interruption from the game's British voice, Gary Imlach.

Since TWI took over, Imlach has been on semi-permanent tour of duty in the United States, presenting the Monday night and, more recently, Sunday night, games. His on-camera presence, often accompanied by some high-calibre touchline guests (former Cowboy Tony Dorsett for the play-offs, former 49er Roger Craig for the game last night), gives the coverage a sense of immediacy and involvement that a standard studio presentation of recorded highlights would not.

Similarly, it is Imlach's on-camera absence that is the one weakness in *Blitz*, which has established itself as one of the cornerstones of Channel 4's excellent sporting Saturday morning. *Blitz* rattles along through a regular pattern of extended highlights, archive material and talking points with great style, but occasionally cries out for some in-depth discussion. On Saturday, for instance, the various refereeing decisions that helped San Diego through to the AFC championship would have kept a *Match of the Day* panel occupied for 20 minutes.

Imlach merely referred to the Chargers "getting away with one" and moved swiftly on from the highly-fortunate right foot of Natrone Means to the definitely unfortunate right foot of Pete Stoyanovich, who missed a 47-yard field goal — and the Super Bowl.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Hemel come close to upsetting Panthers

WHEN they could have been excused for feeling deflated by the departure, possibly for good, of their 6ft 7in American, Tom Eller, Telecential Hemel Hempstead Royals came agonisingly close to producing the surprise result of the basketball season on Saturday. Their defeat by the Budweiser League contenders, Doncaster Panthers, was even narrower than originally indicated by an 84-80 scoreline. A discrepancy on the score sheet was later found to have cost them two points, so 84-82 it was.

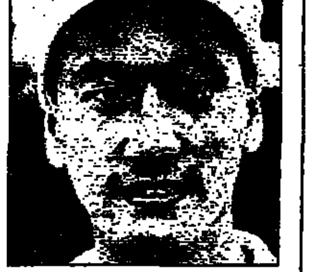
Eller, back in Detroit after the death of an aunt, was replaced by the Nigerian, Solomon Ayinla, whose third three-pointer 42 seconds from time left Panthers hanging on to win a game that had looked safe when they led by 15 points just before half-time. Had Greg Modzelewski not come up with four late points, a subsequent three-pointer from Leon Noel would have given Hemel the game.

Zerdal wins marathon

ATHLETICS: Abdulilah Zerdal, of Morocco, was the surprise winner of the ninth Marrakesh marathon yesterday. Zerdal won in 2hr 11min 50sec. Tiers Bessado, of Ethiopia, was second in 2hr 13min 20sec with Mannix Ioejebeur, of Belgium, third, a minute behind. Paul Evans, of Great Britain, won the half-marathon in 60min 09sec, beating Steve Jones's British record by 50 seconds.

After the early pace had settled, Evans and Laban Chege, of Kenya, were left on their own to resolve their duel over the flat and dusty roads. For once a Kenyan, usually the favourite in a distance race, had to be content with second as the 33-year-old Belgrave Harrier pulled away in the closing stages to leave Chege three seconds in arrears.

Chang holds the aces



TENNIS: Michael Chang, from the United States, completed an impressive build-up to the Australian Open, which starts today and at which he is seeded fifth, by serving ten aces during his victory over the world No 1, Pete Sampras, in the final of the Kooyong Classic in Melbourne on Saturday. Chang defeated his compatriot 7-6, 6-3 in 66 minutes to win the eight-man exhibition event.

Hawks swoop to victory

ICE HOCKEY: The premier division followed form on Saturday with the leading five teams winning and the bottom five losing. Humberside Hawks, in seventh place, beat Fife Flyers, in sixth, but that was predictable — Flyers are below strength because one of their imports walked out and two others are injured. In the first division, Slough Jets dropped a point to Paisley Pirates but still lead their Scottish rivals by four points with five games in hand.

Stanley face favourites

BOWLS: Stanley, runners-up for the past two seasons, and Teignbridge, who lost in the semi-finals last year, have reached the last eight of the Denny Cup inter-club championship, with Stanley having to play Cyphers, the favourites, on January 28. North Walsham and Torbay, both former champions, have also qualified. Blackpool Borough beat Hartlepool by three shots, but Preston had an easy victory, 76-68, over Croydon. Rushden complete the line-up.

Haswell takes title

REAL TENNIS: Sally Jones, the world champion, and the talented newcomer, Sue Haswell, survived a tense struggle to win the Oracle British women's doubles championship in two close sets. Their opponents, Fiona Deuchar, one of the holders, with another newcomer, Emma Wood, the Northumberland squash champion, started strongly but could not keep up with the power of Jones and Haswell, who ran out 6-4, 6-3 winners.

Tired Duran too old

BOXING: Vinny Pazienza, right, of the United States, outpunched Roberto Duran, four times a world champion, throughout their 12-round International Boxing Council super-middleweight title bout in Atlantic City to earn a unanimous points decision. Pazienza, 32, the holder, was too fast for the 43-year-old Panamanian, who looked a ghost of his former self.

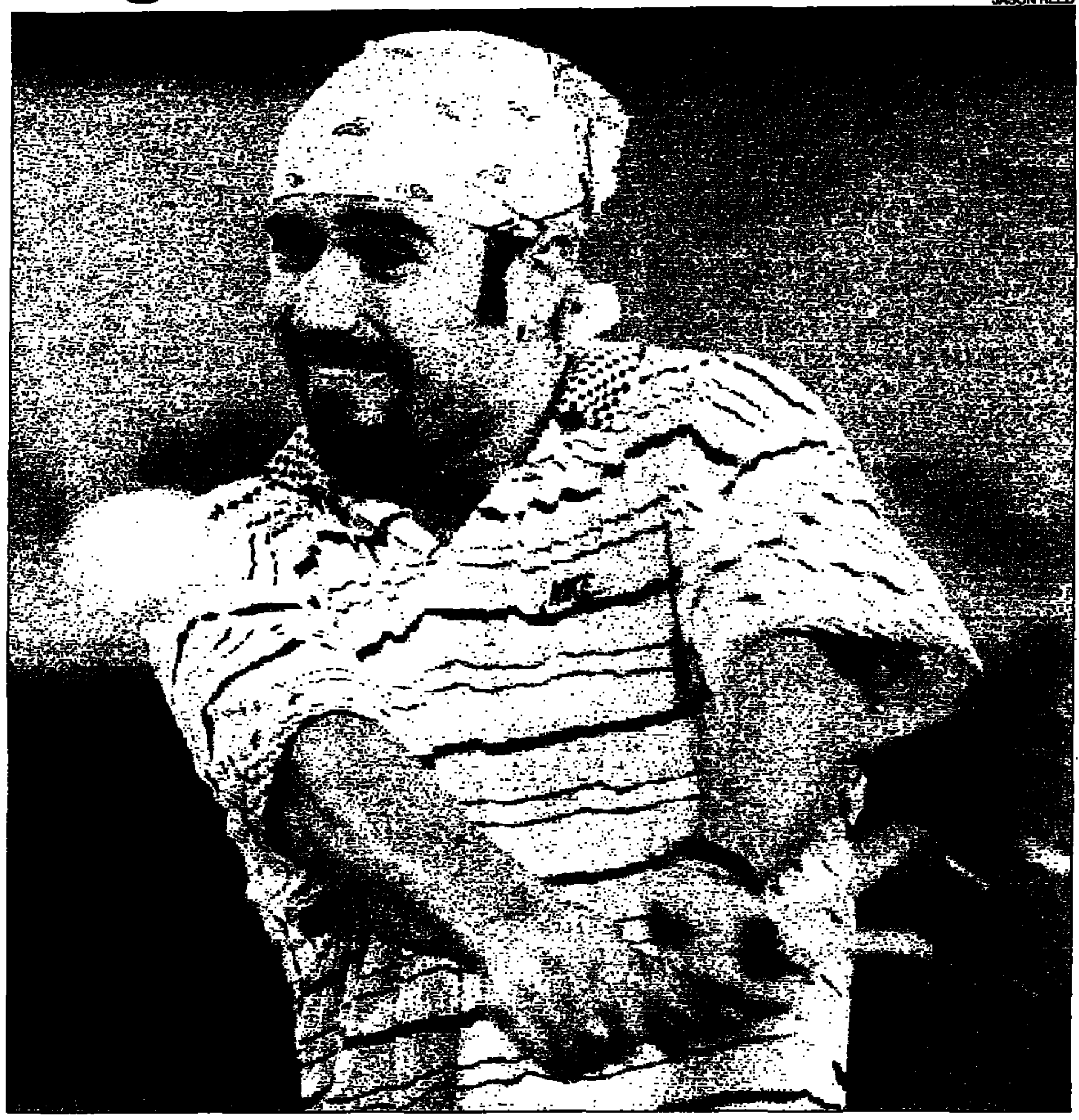
Britons flying high

GLIDING: British team-flying tactics at the World Championships in Omarama, New Zealand, produced ninth, tenth and eleventh places respectively for Andy Davis, Brian Spreckley and Steve Jones, all of Britain. Davis maintained overall second, 170 points off Markku Kuittinen, of Finland, with Spreckley and Jones advancing to fifth and eleventh. Martyn Wells slipped four places to eighth overall while, in the 15-metre class, Justin Wills finished eleventh.

Australian Open starts amid concern about its loss of stature

Agassi seeking short cut to success

Stuart Jones, in Melbourne, on the grand slam championship struggling to retain its audience



JASON REED

Agassi has adopted a new image, including new headgear, for his first appearance at Flinders Park

The marketing manager for Tennis Australia proposed the perfect conclusion to the Australian Open, which begins at Flinders Park today. "If Andre Agassi played Pat Rafter in the final, the tournament would rate its pants off," as John Brown put it in typically blunt terms.

Since the talented young Australian was included in the same section as the second seed, the draw put paid to an idea that would have eased the host's concern about the declining stature of the nation's biggest event. Hence, the reference to the sport's main attraction.

Agassi is about to make his debut in the first grand slam championship of the year and Australians will see him as he has never been seen before. With a new audience has come a new image, complete with a clothing line known, provocatively, as Tennis Sucks. The ensemble appears to include George Foreman's golf shirt, Michael Jordan's basketball shorts and a buccaneer's bandanna covering a shorn skull. The peroxide locks have gone with, supposedly, the callow youth who used to indulge in a superficial vaudeville act.

"When I shaved my body hair, it seemed to make me a little quicker," Agassi jested, recalling his improbable triumph at Wimbledon in 1992. "I got a little carried away with the trimmer the other day. The thing went out of control and cut about a 200th of a second off my movement."

Chartering a private jet last week, with a significantly reduced entourage of two, he flew from Adelaide (where Rafter had beaten him in straight sets) to practise in the futuristic centre court. "I hope the tournament is what it's all cracked up to be," he said. "I'm real excited about it."

A couple of years ago, his eagerness would have been regarded with deep scepticism but the born-again Christian with a penchant for profanity is no longer so enigmatic on court. The transformation began after he had completed his recuperation from wrist surgery ten months ago.

"I'm not saying injury is good for anyone at any time," Brad Gilbert, who was then invited to act as the 24-year-old's coach, said. "But maybe it has healed his brain."

Rather than trying to escape from the game, as was the case with Jim Courier, Agassi needed to put more into it. Resurgent, he became the first player to rise within a year from outside the top 20 to as high as second in the rankings and, unseeded, collected the US Open title last September. As the second favourite, his challenge for a second successive grand slam championship merits serious consideration. So does Tennis Australia's marketing man's dream. The attendance at Flinders Park dropped by ten per cent last year, by more than 31,000, and television ratings slumped elsewhere. The industry reared in alarm. The official response has so far been decorative. Spectators were allowed to intervene audibly during points, music was played during changeovers (and subsequently stopped when the likes of Agassi complained) and the time between points was limited to 20 rather than 25 seconds.

> 'Unlike the cricket, neither event promises to be won by an Australian'

The amended rule to speed up play has also been lambasted by the players and is to be implemented "flexibly" during the next fortnight. Some might claim that the lunatics are not only taking over the asylum but writing the medical notes as well.

On this occasion the relaxation makes sense. The temperature can climb so high that the referee, Peter Bellenger, is empowered either to close the roof of the centre court or to suspend matches should conditions become intolerable. Specialists regard 43°C as life threatening.

The favourite, as usual, is Pete Sampras, the top seed and holder. Unlike Agassi, who starts against two qualifiers, dangers lie in Sampras's quarter of the draw. They include Courier, twice the champion, Magnus Larsson, the winner of the Grand Slam Cup last month, and Michael Stich, who could, in the second round, meet another former Wimbledon champion, Pat Cash.

Jeremy Bates and Mark Petchey are Britain's representatives. Miles Maclagan, Jamie Delgado and Gary Henderson were knocked out in the first round of the qualifying competition. Clare Wood, the only British female entrant, went out in the second round.

The women's field, without Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, who together monopolised the trophy for six years, is the most open since 1979. Then Sharon Walsh was beaten in the final by Barbara Jordan, noted most for the curious name of her American home town, King of Prussia.

There is bound to be a new champion and the strongest contenders are in the same half of the draw. Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the holder of the French and US Open titles, is scheduled to meet Gabriela Sabatini, who yesterday won her second successive trophy, in the semi-final.

Unlike the proceedings in the cricket, which are to be completed in the stadium next door, neither event promises to be won by an Australian. The best domestic hope is considered to be Jason Stoltenberg. His odds, 66-1, are the same as those for Martina Hingis, the 14-year-old.

Careful driving wins Lartigue second title

PIERRE LARTIGUE stayed cool in the African heat to win his second Dakar title when the rally ended yesterday.

Lartigue, the defending champion, drove his Citroen cautiously in the final 380km stage from Tambacounda to the Senegalese capital to end the event with a comfortable overall provisional lead of 3hr 24min 53sec over Bruno Saby, of France, who was second.

Saby, the Mitsubishi driver, who took the tile two years ago, won the last stage while Lartigue, firmly in command from the eighth stage six days ago, was content to finish fourth.

Stephane Peterhansel, of France, completed the motorcycle section in style by winning the last stage on his Yamaha to score his fourth Dakar win. The Cagiva rider, Jordi Arcarons, of Spain was second, 23min 16sec behind.

The 10,000 km race, which started on January 1 in Granada, Spain, and went through Morocco, Mauritania, Guinea and Senegal, was dominated in the early stages by Finn Ari Vatanen, back after a two-year absence.

Vatanen, who has won four times driving a Citroen, took the lead after the third leg in Ouarzazate, Morocco, and looked set for a fifth triumph. But radiator damage in Mauritania delayed him and a spectacular crash on Saturday ended his bid.

Peterhansel recovered from a poor start in the motorcycle section before taking the lead with just two days to go. The Austrian, Heinz Kinigadner, dominated the opening stages on his KTM, leading from the start. But the former motocross champion, making his first appearance in the event, lost time in the Sahara.

THE TIMES
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Paul expels Wigan's Regal ghost

Wigan	34
Castleford	6

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

REVENGE, a straightening of the record, or plain exorcism: there were elements of all three about a performance as irresistible as Wigan are likely to produce this season in banishing the ghosts of their hiding by Castleford in the Regal Trophy final 12 months ago.

Castleford made mistakes and paid a heavy price. Kemp and Tony Smith looked lost at half back, but it would be wrong to say the holders played especially badly.

It said a lot about the outstanding performance of Henry Paul and Martin Offiah, who contributed three of Wigan's five tries yet still not get the man-of-the-match award.

It is not simply Paul's versatility — and yesterday he began at full back and ended up at centre after a long spell at stand-off half — that distinguishes him. Whippet-quick, with an eye for the main chance, he has the knack of prising open gaps when none seems to exist.

Twice his will-o'-the-wisp frame breezed into space on halfway to furnish Robinson and Offiah with tries. As one New Zealander to another, Graeme West, the Wigan coach, said: "He's an exceptional player. When you put someone in one position, swap him to another and then a third, you have to say that player has something not many have."

Paul was a swap with Auckland Warriors for Andy Platt, the start of the so-called Wigan brawn drain. With the 20-year-old on a four-year deal, it is proving a smart piece of business.

Whatever the doubts about Offiah's first score, a lunge from the play-the-ball that looked short of the line, Offiah was in jet-propulsion mode for his two second-half tries.

On the day they lost their three-month lead of the championship to Leeds, Wigan's passage through to the Regal final against Warrington at Huddersfield on Saturday week, their eighth final appearance in 12 years, was just reward.

One price was a pulled hamstring that could keep Shaun Edwards out for some time.

Moving to scrum half was achieved by Botica with the smoothness that also characterised a perfect seven from seven place-kicking feat.

Brief slackness allowed Kemp to kick through on the line and collect Castleford's one try, and if Hay's pass to Nikau, in the clear, had not gone forward, Wigan might have been rattled.

Instead, they immediately went the length of the field for Offiah's first try, the last act of the opening period.

Between a burrowing try by Hall, while Castleford were down to 12 players with Flowers in the sin bin, Offiah was sent long-striding into space by Paul and Connolly.

SCORERS: Wigan: Tries: Offiah (3), Robinson, Hall. Goals: Botica (7). Castleford: Try: Kemp. Goal: Crooks.
WIGAN: H Paul; J Robinson, V Tuigamala (sub: O'Connor, 65 min), G Connolly, M Offiah, F Botica, S Edwards (sub: P Atcheson 6); T O'Connor (sub: M Cassidy, 31), M Hall, N Cowie, D Betts, A Farrell, P Clarke.
CASTLEFORD: J Flowers; C Smith, R Blackmore, S Middleton, J Wray; T Kemp, T Smith; L Crooks (sub: N Sykes, 84), R Russell, D Sampson, T Morrison (sub: M Ketteridge, 58), A Hay, T Nikau.
Referee: S Cummings.

Hanley-inspired Leeds go top

LEEDS moved to the top of the first division of the Stones Bitter Championship with an impressive 46-30 win over Bradford Northern yesterday. They are a point ahead of Wigan but the champions have two games in hand.

Bradford, third in the table, were 8-6 ahead after half-an-hour but then Leeds took a firm grip on the game with a burst of 16 points in ten minutes to lead 22-8 at the interval. Tries by Richie Eyres and Garry Schofield were followed by one from the captain, Ellery Hanley, his 24th of the season. Hanley had put Leeds ahead after only seven minutes with a try that followed a 60-yard move.

Bradford's cause was clearly lost when, early in the second half, Leeds scored two more tries — one a spectacular 65-yard effort by the former All Black centre Craig Innes.

Hanley went on to complete a hat-trick of tries before Bradford launched a productive but too-late rally which brought them 22 points in ten minutes, Myers completing a touchdown treble.

Only Wigan have a better success rate in the Regal Trophy than Warrington, four-times winners, who reached their seventh final — their first of any kind for four years — with a 30-4 victory at Widnes on Saturday.

The game turned into a romp for Warrington once Widnes had lost David Hulme, their captain, to the sin-bin in the second half. Widnes were disrupted by an early injury to Koloto, the Tongan cornerstone of their pack and punished by the accurate goalkicking of Jonathan Davies.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	50	80	fair	crust	fair	sun	-1	13/1
All runs open with calmer weather; heavy snow low down								
AUSTRIA								
Mayrhofen	50	125	good	powder	good	fair	-2	13/1
Superb skiing throughout the area; all lifts open								
Schladming	80	140	good	heavy	fair	cloud	1	13/1
Generally great skiing; some icy patches low down								
St Anton	90	290	good	powder	good	sun	-8	13/1
Great skiing but most powder tracked; pistes busy								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	90	230	good	varied	good	fine	0	12/1
Excellent skiing on well-groomed pistes								
Chamonix	60	355	good	crusty	good	fine	-5	12/1
Superb skiing on uncrowded pistes; no queues anywhere								
Courchevel	95	185	good	varied	good	sun	-8	12/1
Very good skiing; Trois Vallees links open								
Tignes	130	160	good	varied	good	sun	0	12/1
Excellent skiing everywhere, Grande Motte superb								
Val d'Isère	115	280	good	powder	good	fine	-5	13/1
Superb snow and skiing throughout area								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	250	good	varied	good	sun	-4	12/1
Excellent skiing continues								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	190	250	good	powder	good	fine	-8	13/1
Superb skiing in sunny conditions								
Klosters	110	160	good	powder	good	fine	-6	14/1
Wonderful skiing in all areas								
Zermatt	70	280	good	powder	good	fine	-3	12/1
Excellent skiing; Zermatt at its best								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

هكذا في الأصل

Toon Army decides Kitson will do fine instead of Andy Who?

Keegan: responsibility

Andrew Longmore hears football democracy at work as Newcastle supporters vote with their cheers

No winner on the field maybe, but only one winner off it. Only one Kevin Keegan, as the Gallowgate End would have it. Keegan was cheered to the grey skies when he took his seat on the bench and lauded the stars as Newcastle came from behind through a goal by Paul Kitson. For several days — since the news of Andy Cole's £7 million departure to Old Trafford had reduced the city to trauma — the mood on Tyneside had vacillated.

Good deal, bad deal; Keegan the Messiah, Keegan the Fool on the Hill. But the real vote of confidence came yesterday and, in the purest form of footballing democracy, was as unanimous as 37,000 voices could make it.

Like one of those Cold War spy films, the name had been erased from all files. In the club shop, all picture postcards of Cole had been labelled "return to sender". Had they been able to scrub out the No 9 on the back of the player featured on the 1995 Newcastle Annual, doubtless they would have done that too.

Outside, the Toon Army had either gone soft in their old age or had to don jackets to cover up the obsolete name on the back of their black-and-white shirts. Only the centre-spread in the programme — a tribute to Cole and his 68 goals — and the odd taunt from the small band of United followers tucked into the farthest corner of St James' Park reminded the locals of just what they might miss.

That, and the words of the Toon Army song, "Andy Cole scores the goals". Maybe. But not for Newcastle United. Even the inevitable jeers which greeted the arrival of the Manchester United team contained more humour than hate. "Alex, you've wasted your money," rose one cry.

Cole was not at St James' Park to say his farewells. The police had advised against an appearance and, reluctantly, the most expensive pair of feet in British football had been put up on the settee miles away. He was on trial, though, *in absentia*. Was the affection merely as skin deep as the £50 Cole tattoo one supporter had emblazoned on his left arm a week before the transfer?

Cole's affinity with the North East had always been based on the goals which had given Newcastle a new spring to their step — like new soles on an expensive but badly-worn pair of shoes. But he was still an outsider and, as letter after letter in the local newspaper pointed out, the club is bigger than any individual. The gist of the message yesterday was the same.

And Keegan's response was generous. "I don't expect anything else from these supporters. This is more than about Kevin Keegan or Andy Cole, it's about the team. The club is the biggest thing. They never once got in a grumpy mood. We were one down and had just sold our centre forward, they could have got us down, but they helped us back into the game."

Credit should go to Keegan, too. This was the first true test of his almost mystical relationship with the supporters and, except for the odd bit of bickering in midweek, the marriage has survived. He did not try to deflect criticism or share the blame.

He had taken the decision to sell Cole himself, he said, in the interests of making Newcastle a team capable of winning the championship. His programme notes were full of hidden meaning, praising Cole one moment, emphasising the importance of teamwork the next, a masterly piece of writing between the lines. Far from thinking he has got the best out of Cole, Keegan believes that Newcastle can become a better *team* without him and the fact that this season's championship challenge faltered when Cole was injured only confirmed his view that consistency was the key, not individual genius.

Yesterday was the test of that vision and it might just be that, for all the sighting of Dennis Bergkamp at Newcastle airport, Paul Kitson will prove a perfectly adequate replacement. The crowd were as desperate for Kitson to succeed as the man himself. Every touch was greeted with applause, every mistake ignored until the diminutive striker, asked to go solo against Bruce and Palliser, struck lucky to slip in the equaliser.

"An important goal for him and for us," Keegan said, smiling at the understatement. The relief was evident for both. At the final whistle, the chants had turned from Keegan to Kitson and, though a point did Newcastle's cause no good, who knows how significant that goal will be in the long term. Andy Cole? Andy Who?

Australia's seniors avoid World Series Cup embarrassment with last-ball victory

Close finish fails to mask final charade

From Alan Lee, cricket correspondent in Sydney

THE fraud of the World Series Cup competition here runs deeper than its grandiose title. Even the contents are not what they should be. The first match in the best-of-three finals is traditionally an evening of passion and partiality, but the 36,000 gathered yesterday were confused and restrained, not knowing which team to cheer and not wanting either to be beaten.

Australia, the first and original, won by five wickets against Australia A. It was decided on the last ball, but this was no thriller. Their pursuit of 210 was seldom in doubt until an unnecessarily fraught final over, their superior class evident throughout and exemplified by the incisive bowling of Craig McDermott and the brilliance of Michael Slater's 92. Much of the cricket was spirited and some was of high class but, crucially, little of it was of high intensity.

However, one incident, the product of misconstrued matiness, a joke that went awry between players who know each other too well, landed Matthew Hayden and Glenn McGrath before John Reid, the match referee, after an unedifying shoving match. This, above all else, was the ultimate put-down for an ill-conceived marketing venture.

If the players had trouble identifying friend from foe, the vast majority of the crowd were in crisis. Should they support the national team? Should they back the underdogs? Should they care at all? Most, it seems, arrived uncommitted and left unfulfilled. They cheered individual favourites and they applauded the unusual, but when Shane Warne came on to bowl, the regulation shrieks of adulation died away uneasily. Did they want him to take wickets or not? It was a dilemma few can have enjoyed.

If the bottom line of its judgment is merely revenue, the Australian Cricket Board may yet regard its dabbling with custom to have been an unqualified success. Somehow, I doubt it. There was a well-founded apprehension in high places when the final became an exclusively local affair, and this soulless exhibition game can have convinced nobody that it is worth risking again.

England would never countenance such an idea but, just in case the present administration is overthrown and future boards consider it a bright scheme, be warned now. Do not be fooled by the near-capacity attendance. Every seat was sold before England proved unequal to the task of reaching the final, yet 3,000 ticket-holders did not show up, and many more had left long before the end.

The closeness of the match is also a deceit, for it brought only passing interest. Real excitement in such games comes from a nationalism that requires no supporting gimmick. Here, there was no nationalism, no fervour, no real point. But there were gimmicks aplenty.

First was the selection policy, which equated closely to the age-old practice of picking sides in the school playground. The interchange of players, insulting to a supposedly international event, reached its farcical peak when the senior Australians poached Paul Reiffel, without whom the A-team would not have beaten England, and then did not play him. The chorus of boos that greeted the announcement of Reiffel as twelfth man indicated that the people were no longer being fooled. And this was before a ball had been bowled.

The interval entertainment was appropriate. The unfortunate winner of an opportunity to hit a ball into an inflatable advertisement for a prize he probably did not want found himself facing the bowling of Plucka-Duck, the absurd, costumed invention of a low-brow commercial television show. Then we were treated to a band exhorting the crowd to join them in terrace cricket songs of terrifying banality. They were all aimed at supporting Australia, of course. But which Australia?

Taylor, the Australia captain, had been consistent in his doubts. Suspicious minds put this down to fear, for Taylor had nothing to gain but much to lose. Yet he is too genuine, too sensitive for this to explain all. Taylor squirms at being asked to beat his own kind, and he is right to do so.

Before play, Warne pointed out that the Australian side's usual pre-match meeting had involved no discussion of the opposition. "There aren't any secrets," he said. "We all know each other's games so well." Taylor was then asked if the atmosphere was similiar to a Sheffield Shield game. "No," he said. "Before a Shield game you don't talk to the opposition as much. We've all been chatting together today."

Apart from the Hayden-McGrath spat — and even that dissolved into giggles at the drinks break which followed — that feeling pervaded the day. It was the fault of none of the players, for they were all trying their best. The truth, however, is that they hardly knew who they were trying to beat, and why.

England Under-19 bowled out West Indies Under-19 for 168 on the third day of the first international in Port of Spain, Trinidad. England, who made 317 in their first innings, were 152 for two at the close.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Emery, the Australia A batsman, is run out for four by Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

Australia A won toss

AUSTRALIA A

G S Blewett b McDermott	19
M L Hayden c Slater b M E Waugh	50
*D R Martyn c Taylor b Warne	20
M G Bevan b McDermott	73
J L Langer b McDermott	7
R T Ponting b McGrath	19
†P A Emery run out	4
G R Robertson c Taylor b McDermott	5
G Rowell not out	1
P E McIntyre not out	1
Extras (b 6, lb 2, w 1, nb 1)	10
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	209

S P George did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-28, 2-69, 3-105, 4-136, 5-192, 6-196, 7-203, 8-203.

BOWLING: McDermott 10-1-25-4; Fleming 10-2-38-0; McGrath 10-1-44-1; Warne 10-2-37-1; M E Waugh 5-0-30-1; Law 5-0-27-0.

AUSTRALIA

M J Slater b Blewett	92
*M A Taylor b George	16
M E Waugh c Bevan b Blewett	16
D C Boon c Ponting b McIntyre	36
S R Waugh not out	21
S G Law st Emery b McIntyre	13
†I A Healy not out	9
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 5, nb 1)	10
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs)	213

S K Warne, C J McDermott, D W Fleming and G D McGrath did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-80, 3-167, 4-167, 5-190

BOWLING: Rowell 10-1-52-0; George 9-0-42-1; Blewett 10-2-25-2; Robertson 10-0-35-0; McIntyre 10-0-48-2; Martyn 1-0-7-0.

Umpires: T Prue and P Parker

Second final: tomorrow. Third final (if required): January 19

Indians collapse as Stemp dictates

By Our Sports Staff

RICHARD STEMP threw down a challenge to Phil Tufnell after causing India A to collapse from their overnight 236 for four to 300 all out on the second day of the first five-day international with England A in Bangalore.

The Yorkshire left-arm spinner, who said that he had taken heart from the example of Darren Gough in Australia, took four wickets for 27 runs yesterday to give himself overall figures of six for 85.

On a pitch already offering help to the slow bowlers, England A replied with 156 for three, with Nick Knight and Jason Gallian both contributing half-centuries. Mark Ramprakash played well for his unbeaten 30 and much will depend on him and the captain, Alan Wells, today.

Stemp, 27, who is bowling in sunglasses to stop the batsmen from seeing his eyes, has a smoother run-up and action after coaching from Norman Gifford at Lilleshall.

"That's the best I have bowled in my career and I am just so looking forward to bowling these days," Stemp said. "Last summer, when I was selected for a couple of Test squads, it scared the living daylights out of me. I didn't believe myself that I deserved to be there. But now I have come to terms with the fact that I can play Test cricket. I feel in the groove."

INDIA: First Innings

J Singh c Knight b Stemp	32
V Rathore c and b Salisbury	90
A Mazumdar c Wells b Stemp	1
*P Amre c Nixon b Chapple	38
R Dravid lbw b Stemp	60
†V Yadav c Knight b Chapple	19
S Bahutule lbw b Stemp	3
U Chatterjee c Nixon b Cork	24
R K Chauhan c Knight b Stemp	3
P Mhambrey not out	6
A Kuruvilla b Stemp	9
Extras (b 7, lb 7, nb 1)	15
Total (120.2 overs)	300

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-99, 2-101, 3-157, 4-207, 5-252, 6-254, 7-258, 8-270, 9-285

BOWLING: Cork 22-6-37-1; Chapple 31-8-82-2; Stemp 47.2-16-83-6; Salisbury 9-1-42-1; Weekes 11-1-42-0

ENGLAND A: First Innings

N V Knight c Yadav b Chatterjee	50
M P Vaughan lbw b Mhambrey	1
J E R Gallian c Rathore b Bahutule	58
M R Ramprakash not out	30
*A P Wells not out	6
Extras (nb 8)	8
Total (3 wkts, 58 overs)	153

P N Weekes, D G Cork, †P A Nixon, I D K Salisbury, G Chapple and R D Stemp to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-97, 3-136

BOWLING: Mhambrey 12-2-32-1; Kuruvilla 6-0-18-0; Chauhan 14-2-37-0; Chatterjee 10-2-23-1; Bahutule 16-6-43-1

Umpires: V K Ramaswamy and Jasbir Singh

Hendry races to third title in succession

By Phil Yates

STEPHEN HENDRY recorded his most convincing victory in a final since the 1990 Dubai Classic when he won the inaugural Liverpool Victoria charity challenge at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham last night.

Hendry earned a £100,000 cheque for his charity, the Down's Syndrome Association, with a comprehensive 9-1 defeat of Dennis Taylor. The margin of victory equalled that by which he beat Steve Davis in Dubai five years ago.

The world champion, who won the United Kingdom championship in November and then retained his European Open title last month, has now woven together a 15-match winning streak.

Hendry has won four tournaments this season, £255,700 in prize-money and 51 titles during his ten-year professional career. He failed to reproduce the excellent break-building that was an outstanding feature of his 6-5 win over Alan McManus in his semi-final on Saturday but, with Taylor unable to score heavily and take advantage of the chances afforded him, the outcome was inevitable.

The Scot, who compiled a 145 total clearance against McManus, finished with a run of 107 in the tenth frame, but, by then, there was no way back for Taylor. Hendry always seemed destined for a comfortable win when Taylor, figuring in a final for the first time since he lost 9-3 to Hendry in the climax to the 1990 Asian Open, tossed aside two gilt-edged opportunities to win the third frame.

After establishing a 2-0 lead with runs of 54, 44, and 55, Hendry led 51-33. He missed the last red across the top cushion to give Taylor the chance of fashioning a clearance but the experienced Irishman, who has struggled to find his best form in recent years, missed an easy brown and later the pink, because of excessive upper-body movement on the shot.

Taylor continued to commit one error after another and was in danger of being the first player since Dean Reynolds, a 10-0 loser to Steve Davis in the 1989 Rothmans Grand Prix, to be whitewashed in a final. Victory in the seventh frame averted that humiliation, at least.

RESULT: Final: S Hendry (Scot) bt D Taylor (N Ire): 9-1. Frame scores (Hendry first): 118-15, 75-21, 61-48, 100-22, 76-48, 68-27, 20-71, 80-31, 78-35, 121-10.

Upstart sailors race with tenacity

Egnot steers *America³* to victory over *Stars & Stripes* in a defender selection race for the America's Cup

From Barry Pickthall in San Diego

UPSETS dominated the opening rounds of the America's Cup yachting trials here at the weekend as Bill Koch's all-woman crew aboard *America³* scored one over Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* and the Japanese aboard *Nippon* beat John Bertrand's world champion, *oneAustralia*.

The victory by *America³* on Friday, in which Leslie Egnot beat Conner by more than a minute, led to wild but short-lived jubilation. The next day, Conner, four times the Cup winner, made no mistakes at the start, sitting on the weather hip of *America³* and driving right over. It took the women ten minutes to escape his shadow, but, despite their gut-wrenching, 27-tack duel over the remainder of the leg, Conner's men covered their every move and won by a telling 5min 47sec.

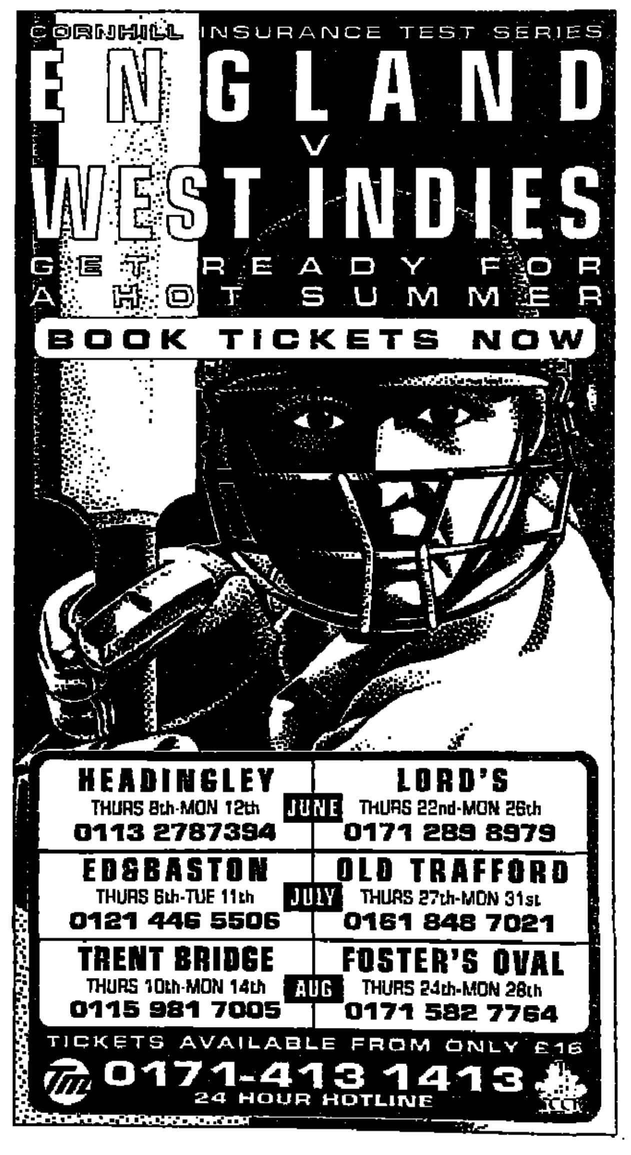
The biggest surprise was *Nippon's* one-minute win over Bertrand's fancied crew. The Japanese have made extensive changes to their boat since it was almost cut in half during a freak dismasting before the world championships in October. Makoto Namba, the captain, said the changes were cosmetic. "Our logo is a little longer and narrower," he said jokingly, glossing over the new bow, stern and underbody given to the boat since the world championships.

The Japanese even overcame the ban on Peter Gilmour, their Australian coach and former match-race world champion, imposed by the organising committee on Friday, by carrying him as their seventeenth man, a place at the back of the boat usually reserved for sponsors or syndicate heads. The Japanese intend to press Gilmour's claim for eligibility before the international jury, and, in the meantime, keep him aboard.

The rules preclude him from playing a part in sailing the boat once the race is under way, and, to allay obvious doubts from rivals, the helmsman, John Cutler, from New Zealand, whose long-term connection with the Japanese satisfies the two-year residency rule, confirmed that Gilmour "has no influence, doesn't say anything and doesn't do anything — he just sits there".

But *Nippon* had no need for Gilmour's steering ability on Saturday. The Japanese got the better of the Australians at the start and dominated throughout.

Results, page 30



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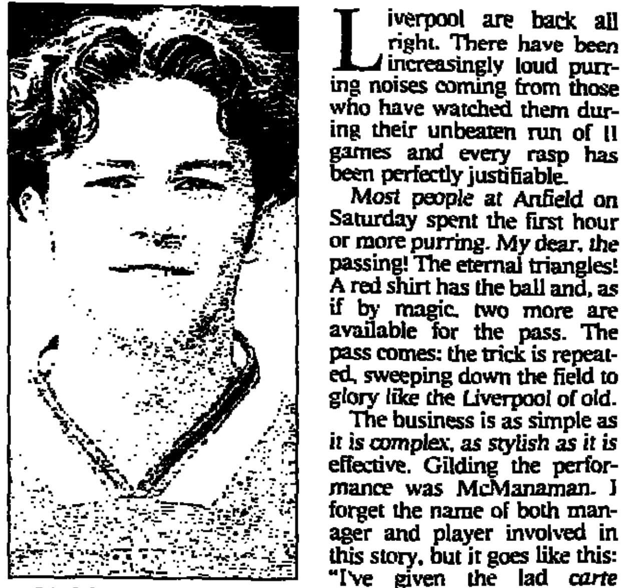
Liverpool's passing fancy of no consequence to defiant Forrest



McManaman: at ease with roving role

Simon Barnes watches Ipswich break the habit of a lifetime by securing a 1-0 victory at Anfield

Liverpool are back all right. There have been increasingly loud purring noises coming from those who have watched them during their unbeaten run of 11 games and every rasp has been perfectly justifiable.

Most people at Anfield on Saturday spent the first hour or more purring. My dear, the passing! The eternal triangles! A red shirt has the ball and, as if by magic, two more are available for the pass. The pass comes: the trick is repeated, sweeping down the field to glory like the Liverpool of old.

The business is as simple as it is complex, as stylish as it is effective. Gilding the performance was McManaman. I forget the name of both manager and player involved in this story, but it goes like this: "I've given the lad *carte blanche*. But I didn't tell him that. Told him he could go where he liked." So there was McManaman, turning up all over the place, adding to the passing game the precious ability to go by defenders. Every time the ball came to him, something happened: one of those players, having one of those games.

To the lovely passing, Liverpool have the added virtue of forgiveness. They cover for each other. An error is no sooner made than a player steps outside his normal role, clears up ungrudgingly and sets the passing machine in motion again. Is forgiveness the ultimate virtue of professionalism?

Then there is Rush, leading the attack, leading the entire side. He embodies Liverpool's traditional delight in the craftsmanship of football: the full understanding of your role and its responsibilities. His defensive work at the wrong end of the pitch, his selfless tackles, blocks and short passes were a lesson in the extent of a striker's role.

Only one thing marred Liverpool's performance, and that was the fact that they lost. Ipswich had been to Anfield on 33 previous occasions and had never won. They are second to bottom of the league. And on Saturday they won 1-0.

Everybody awaits the return of the "Liverpool of old". It has not happened yet, quite obviously. The old Liverpool never got beaten by relegation fodder. Ipswich worked hard, tackled hard, showed much spirit. But had Liverpool bagged the goals they threatened, Ipswich would have hardly rated a mention. We would all have been writing about championship contenders and lovely passes.

Jones had three chances, all of which he struck well. And all of them Forrest saved well. A Jones hat-trick, and the work from McManaman that made it possible, and Liverpool marching on; that, without those three plunging double-fisted parries, is what we would have been writing about. Instead, we must write about Sedgley's work in midfield, which was of the untiring rather than the purr-inducing kind. But his pass set up Tanner, and Tanner's finish was as crisp as anything Jones managed. Rather further from the goalkeeper, too; after half an hour, Ipswich had their goal. It still seemed a temporary setback for Liverpool.

The passes still swung around the pitch, the triangles and squares and parallelograms were still formed, and McManaman still wriggled. But after an hour, a slow change happened. Self-doubt crept in. Discontent burst out.

The crowd left off purring and started caterwauling. Contented expectation became angry frustration. One of the many Anfield clichés is "pressure-cooker"; well, pressure-cookers need a safety valve, or they blow up. In football, safety valves are normally called goals. Liverpool lacked one on Saturday. And blew up. No wonder Kenny Dalglish blew up when he was manager of Liverpool, vanishing into the night when the pressure of expectation overwhelmed him.

This was an afternoon to send any manager mad. Everything started so well, so right, and everything finished so badly. How did it go so wrong? "I haven't a clue." Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said with wonderful frankness.

But his players, too many of them, ended the match playing CYA football, this being an American acronym for (better use a euphemism here) Cover Your Assets. In other words, play to avoid personal error.

Thus players began to pass back instead of forward, consistently played the safe ball, never the incisive one, avoided, at all costs, personal risk. Every nuance of play said "it isn't *my* bloody fault". This is the football you get when overmuch expectation meets insufficient ability. Or, at least, insufficient self-belief.

It *is* England football. And on Saturday it was Liverpool football. A team that plays CYA in moments of crisis does not get, or deserve, championships; just as it does not qualify, or deserve to qualify, for World Cups.

Ipswich look as if they will fight all the way to relegation. Liverpool seemed to be suffering an attack of the dreaded at-least-we're-in-two-cups disease. In short, it looks as if yet another team has dropped out of the championship race. Better give the damn thing to Blackburn now and put us all out of our misery.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — P Babb, N Ruddock, J Scales — S I Bjornebye (sub: M Walters, 56min), M Thomas, J Redknapp, S McManaman, R Jones — I Rush, R Fowler.

IPSWICH (4-4-2): C Forrest — F Yallop, J Wark, D Linighan, G Johnson — A Tanner, G Williams, S Sedgley, C Thomsen — A Paz, S Slater.

Referee: R Gifford.

Horlock rises to task as leaders lose their way

Swindon Town 2
Middlesbrough 1

By Russell Kempson

SWINDON Town's apparent obsession with knockout football this season — they have reached the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup and the fourth round of the FA Cup — has seen them plummet into trouble near the foot of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division. Not since Wolverhampton Wanderers, then the leaders, visited on October 8 had Swindon emerged victorious in a league game.

Yesterday, though, when Middlesbrough, also the leaders, visited the County Ground, Swindon finally proved that they are still able to fix their minds on less glamorous matters. Victory, their first in 15 attempts in the league, also moved them out of the relegation zone.

Sadly, supporters were spared the blood-curdling prospect of Steve McMahon, the Swindon player-manager, and Bryan Robson, his Middlesbrough counterpart, meeting head on in midfield. McMahon is still nursing a broken arm while Robson, though fit, preferred the more energetic combination of Mustoe and Pollock to himself. Just as well. A ferocious early pace might have had Robson, 38, or even McMahon, 33, struggling to last the course.

Middlesbrough twice went close during the frantic opening, Hendrie testing Hammond with a close-range header after Culverhouse's attempted clearance had ricocheted off Moore. A minute later, Hendrie again forced Hammond into action with a low, firmly-dispatched shot.

Swindon were not getting much of a look-in, such was the persistence of Pollock, and had only a wayward 25-yarder from Fjortoft to show for some timid ventures forward. Not surprisingly, Middlesbrough took the lead in the thirteenth minute after Horlock had brought down Pollock on the edge of the Swindon area. Hignett hammered the free kick into the defensive wall with his right foot and, as the ball rebounded back to him, he swung his left leg in the same general direction. Much to his amazement, and Hammond's, the effort flew like a tracer high into the net. Hammond never moved.

It at last roused Swindon from their torpor and, within nine minutes, they had equalised. Beauchamp's inswinging corner was met by Robinson with a precise downward header, and Fjortoft managed the merest of touches from six inches to poach his 23rd goal of the season.

From looking at odds with life, Swindon were suddenly at Middlesbrough's throats. Although Moore struck a post, after seizing on an error by Nijholt, Swindon appeared far more likely to sneak in front. Fjortoft twice wasted opportunities and Bodin sent a 30-yard screamer narrowly past an upright. Five minutes before the interval, Middlesbrough's mounting concern was magnified when Fleming, cautioned earlier for a foul on Robinson, was sent off for his second bookable offence, an equally rash challenge on Nijholt.

Middlesbrough dug in after the break, depleted yet not despondent, but their numerical disadvantage gradually took its toll, and Swindon edged ahead in the 56th minute. Beauchamp and Ling worked a clever short corner routine, and Beauchamp's driven cross was met with a fierce header from Horlock that whistled past Miller for his first goal for more than two years.

Middlesbrough lacked the manpower to breach Swindon's solid, if at times unsightly, defence. The big boot — into the stands, out of the ground, anywhere — was applied with increasing frequency as the pressure grew, but Swindon, with a frenetic mixture of luck and judgment, held on. McMahon, who succeeded John Gorman in November, had at last made his league mark at the seventh time of asking.

SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): N Hammond — M Robinson, I Culverhouse, S Taylor, P Bodin — M Ling, L Nijholt, K Horlock, J Beauchamp — J A Fjortoft, A Mutch.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-3-3): A Miller — N Pearson, S Vickers, D Whyte, C Fleming — C Morris, J Pollock, R Mustoe — C Hignett, J Hendrie, A Moore (sub: G Kavanagh, 80min).

Referee: G Pooley.

From wags to riches in bargain basement

Michael Henderson savours supporters' gallows humour as Northampton Town beat Gillingham 2-0

In the meat-and-two-veg world of third division football, Ian Atkins is pouring the gravy. It is his first team talk as the manager of Northampton Town, the team next to bottom, and he has promised the supporters a more physical approach. They are playing the club one place above them, and badly need to win. In the past ten games, the Cobblers have taken only five points.

What Mike Flanagan, the Gillingham manager, is telling his players is hard to imagine. The club is in the hands of the receiver, searching high and low for a new owner and trying to satisfy the Football League that it can fulfil its fixtures. Now the players must ensure that neither penury nor relegation devour them. Northampton were in a similar position three years ago, before the council funded a new ground.

The public address informs the Gillingham supporters, about 400 of them, that their opposite numbers wish them well. Then the teams emerge together, Northampton looking reasonably familiar in their claret shirts, Gillingham sporting a most peculiar strip of white socks, black shorts trimmed by yellow, and blue shirts with white epaulettes. Atkins is introduced to the crowd and gives a wave that is meant to suggest: "We're in this together."

No sooner has the match kicked off than the Gillingham supporters acclaim "by far the greatest team the world has ever seen". Note "by far". The home supporters quickly find a new favourite. Darren Hughes, previously of Port Vale. His first touch elicits a tame chant of "Hughesey" from about 25 vocalists behind the goal. A minute later they sing "going bust" to the visiting supporters. Humour is evidently not their strong suit.

Northampton's first attack runs out of steam when Brown ("Brownie" to those in the know) carries the ball beyond the byline. Dean Trott, a pony-tailed Northampton substitute, warms up by the touchline. The loyal two dozen behind the goal like that. They chant "Dean-o".

After 12 minutes, Atkins leaps from the dug-out to retrieve the ball and gets another cheer. It helps to keep minds off the game. Hughes, eager to bring some zip to it, puts a free kick on the top of the net. It looks better than it is. Still, the crowd goes "woo!".

Arnott, the Gillingham right back, becomes the second player to be booked when he clobbers Colkin in front of a gaggle of children who raise their treble voices in outrage and shake their fists in a manner they have learnt from television.

The play remains scrappy. Pike should score for Gillingham but dithers. Grayson misses Brown's cross by inches. The Gillingham supporters sing a rude song. The attendance figure is announced. Everyone applauds.

When a goal comes, 11 minutes from time, Gillingham are furious. Grayson's shot appears to strike Arnott in the face, and when the referee awards a penalty he is surrounded by six blue-shirted players. Harmon scores, just.

The Gillingham supporters chant rude things about the referee. The Northampton supporters chant rude things about them. Atkins leaves the dug-out to give some instructions, and a linesman tells him to get back.

Trott scores a second goal and goes barmy. Supporters behind the directors' box wearing earrings and ill-fitting suits do a jig. The two dozen vocal loyalists are joined by two dozen more. They shout: "Atki, give us a wave". He's "Atki" now. To them, he could be Napoleon.

The referee books four players in the last five minutes, all for "ungentlemanly conduct", making it seven in the match. But he refuses to give Gillingham a penalty for handball and there are some grumpy people at the end.

On the whistle, the Northampton players clap the crowd. Gillingham's clap their supporters. Atkins claps. The vocal two dozen clap. The pre-teens clap. The men in earrings clap, and do another jig. Everyone, everywhere, is clapping.

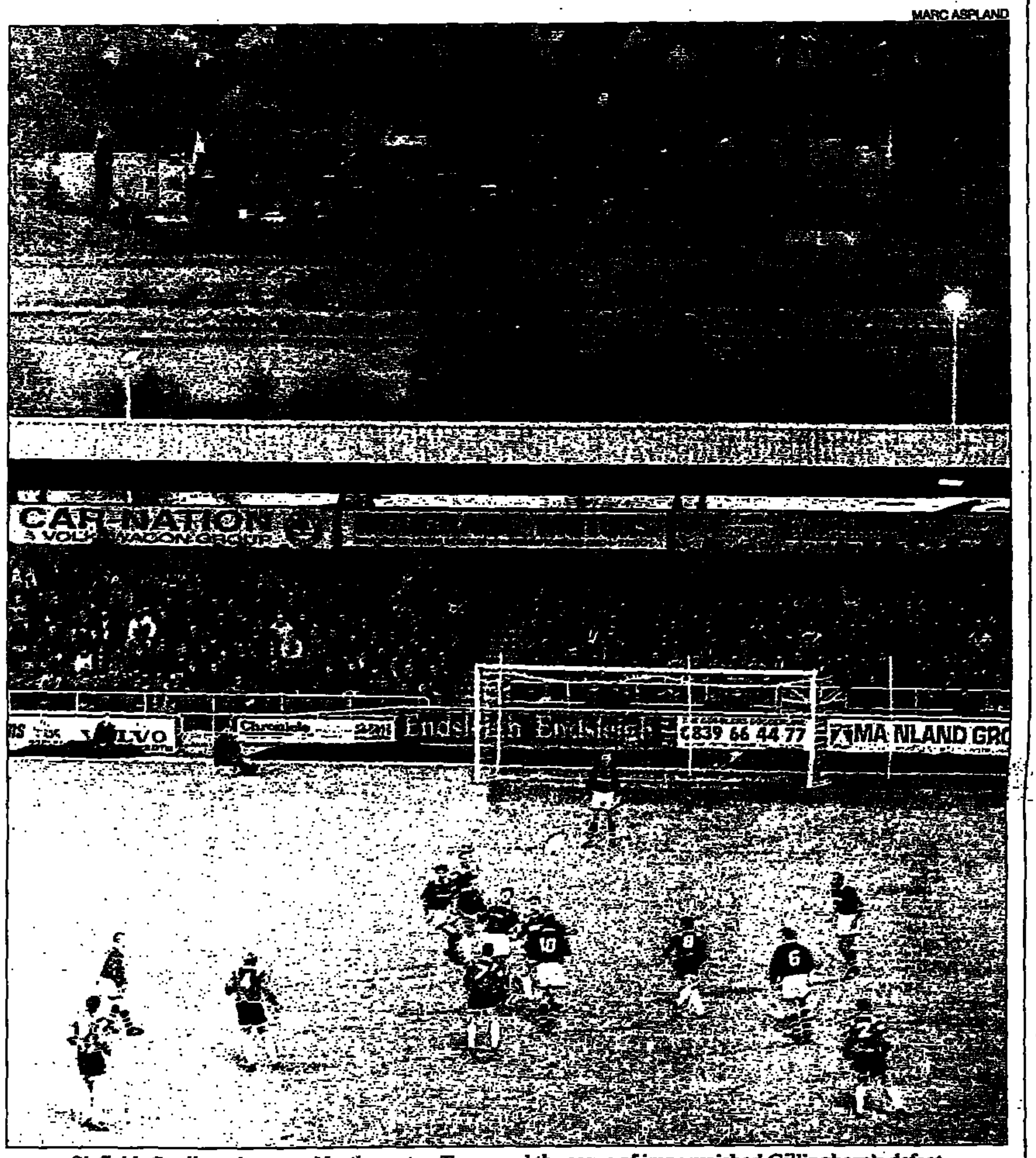
In the tunnel, a jobsworth is having a good old moan. He thinks everyone is about to storm the dressing-rooms and "executive suite" (a room with beer). In twos and threes the players leave for a swift half and then home, imagining what they would do with their money if they were Andy Cole.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (4-4-2): B Stewart — D Norton, I Sampson, R Warburton, D Hughes — I Brown, D Harmon, C Burns, L Colkin — M Aldridge (sub: D Trott, 45min), N Grayson.

GILLINGHAM (4-4-2): S Banks — A Arnott, R Green, T Butler, M Bodley — G Micklewhite, N Smith, R Carpenter, P Watson (sub: R Reneit, 79) — A Foster, C Pike.

Referee: J Holbrook.

MARC ASPLAND



Sixfields Stadium, home to Northampton Town and the scene of impoverished Gillingham's defeat

County are quick to acclaim Kendall's succession

Notts County 3
Burnley 0

By Simon Wilde

IF THE Royal Family are feeling isolated these days, they could do worse than point out that they are not the only ones accused of frittering large amounts of money, of having ill-defined roles and of being burdened with the expectations of the masses. So, too, are football managers, and nobody has suggested they should be removed. Not yet, anyway.

Look at the performance of Howard Kendall at Meadow Lane on Saturday. Having been appointed manager of Notts County only three days earlier, he had not picked the team and had held just one training session. However, his presence sent the morale of public and players soaring.

The attendance of 8,700 was well above the recent average, and three second-half goals gave County their best result in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division this season. It was hard to credit that they had lost their five previous league matches and are languishing at the foot of the table.

Kendall WAS majestic. His entrance was delayed, but timed to perfection. Just enough of a wave to leave the crowd wanting more; just a jazzy enough jacket to make them look twice. After all, whether he had been in charge for three days or three years, there was not much more he could do. Now, it was up to the players.

One of the most striking things about Kendall — apart from his jackets — is his bald pate. It comes from being 48 and having had six spells as manager or coach. The Pate was much in evidence. It bobbed in and out of the dug-out like a Royal on a Buckingham Palace balcony. It came out to wave its arms, jab its fingers, thrust its hands in its pockets. It talked to the Burnley dug-out when Matthews was denied a penalty in the first half, exchanged words with officials when McSwegan had a goal disallowed in the second. All this, apparently, helped County's cause.

The Pate must have been delighted with what it saw. After a nervous opening, County played skilfully. They dominated the match, could have scored six, and scarcely allowed their opponents a shot. Matthews caused Burnley constant problems. White, who needs an extra yard of pace, and Devlin, who does not, each scored one goal and created another.

White got the first five minutes after the interval in outrageous manner. Beresford, in attempting to clear a back-pass, drilled the ball into White's shins and saw it rebound over his head and into the net. The Pate grinned broadly, realising that he had not only inspired hope, but also luck.

Devlin scored the second with a ten-yard drive into the left-hand corner in the 69th minute, and three minutes from time rounded the defence to enable McSwegan to add a third from close range.

"If they play that kind of football, there won't be any real need for me to go on the transfer market," Kendall said. An hour later, the *Nottingham Evening Post* said it all: King Kendall. God bless you, sir, whatever it is you do.

NOTTS COUNTY (4-4-2): S Cherry — G Mills, M Johnson, P Turner, S Murphy — P Devlin, P Butler, R Matthews, A Legg — D White (sub: A Agana, 87min), G McSwegan.

BURNLEY (4-4-2): M Beresford — G Parkinson, S Davis, D Eyres, M Winstanley — A Randall (sub: E McMinn, 56), A Harper, A Heath, J Hoyland — A Saville, L Robinson (sub: J Deary, 69).

Referee: G Singh.

Memories of Ibrox and talent unfulfilled

IAN McCALL changed clubs on Friday. Nobody held the back page. A press conference was not required. Instead of newspaper interviews, the midfield player probably only told a few friends and relations. At 30, a man who leaves Falkirk on a free transfer to join Hamilton Academical does not expect any fuss.

McCall, however, can at least recall what a real hullabaloo sounds like. Few people, after all, have made their debut in an Old Firm match, yet alone lived to recall the occasion with relief and laughter. Rangers, having spent £250,000 to buy him from Dunfermline Athletic in 1987, introduced their acquisition as a substitute against Celtic.

His first intervention was pure slapstick. Attempting to clear, he headed against the Rangers crossbar, narrowly avoiding the own goal which might have seen him lynched only seconds after he had been fêted. In a soft-hearted football tale this incident would be a quaint anecdote to underpin the glorious record McCall went on to establish at Ibrox.

That, however, is not what happened. McCall never established himself as a Rangers player, even though he had the potential to do so. Any number of coaches will tell you that the midfield player's skill belonged in international football. Yet the only trace which remains of his career with Rangers lies in one vivid memory. Brought on in a game with Hibernian in 1988, he scored the winner by bending the ball round the goalkeeper from the edge of the area.

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

He was soon surplus to Rangers' requirements and the club sold him to Bradford City in 1990. There are moralists, and McCall himself is among them, who believe that the player engineered his own downfall. He has often admitted that he lacked dedication, enjoying the status of being a Rangers player too much to work at hanging onto it.

Perhaps McCall did like living it up when he ought to have been acquiring ascetic ways. As an unpleasant pre-season prank that later ended a spell with Dundee was to prove, he is capable of excess. All the same, any attempt to portray McCall as a delinquent would be ludicrous. He is an articulate, reflective character who chooses to live in the West End, a bohemian area around Glasgow University.

It is reassuring to believe that when a man fails it is simply his own fault. Nobody wants to face the alarming fact that the world might be an anarchic place with a shortage of explanations. However, the idea that McCall's development in football was stunted by an occasional indiscretion is implausible. There are, after all, players who have led downright dissolute lives and still gone on to glory.

In truth, nobody knows why talent goes wrong. Many youths entering professional football possess skill and flair but few learn the knack of bringing that ability to bear in the anxiety of a competitive match. Some slight nuance of temperament makes all the difference and leaves a player like McCall to live with his disappointment.

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The phenomenon must be one of the greatest frustrations for managers. With transfer fees rising, it will be understandable should there be a reluctance in future to take a chance on the sort of prospect McCall once was. As Arsenal demonstrated with the signing of John Hartson from Luton on Friday, if a club wishes to gamble on potential, the wager can set it back £2.5 million.

Dabbling in the youth market has become expensive and Rangers, for one, seem reluctant to enter it. Not even the welter of injuries which saw them play Falkirk with a greatly depleted team on Saturday could tempt the manager, Walter Smith, to make a signing. His side won 3-2 in any case, through a winner from Stuart McCall in the last minute. The Dutch winger, Pieter Huistra, had earlier scored twice on his last appearance for Rangers before joining Sanfrecce of Hiroshima, in the J-League in Japan.

Smith's refusal to buy instant replacements for Huistra and the others he has recently sold stems from the desire to wait until an established European star is available. Jesper Blomqvist, of Gothenburg, wrecker of Manchester United in the European Champions' League, is the principal target of the champions.

The Ibrox club want to acquire certainties but when Hamilton meet them in the Scottish Cup, McCall will be striving to demonstrate to Rangers that football is still a game of painful unpredictability.

Shot-shy Brentford ruin their own party

Brentford 0
Swansea City 0

By Alix Ramsay

IT HAD been planned as a party to celebrate Brentford's 3,000th league match, but not all celebrations go to plan, and this was one of those. On their big day, a goal was more than they could muster.

In fact, as parties go, the whole affair was something of a non-event. For a start, this was actually Brentford's 2,999th Football League match since they joined in 1920. The postponement of their fixture against Birmingham City last week had spoiled arrangements, but the souvenir programmes had been printed, the badges made, and the plans laid.

Still, expectations were high. Brentford were unbeaten in their previous six Endsleigh Insurance League second division games, scoring 21 goals. Unfortunately, they did not quite live up to the billing. The players had left the route map to goal in the dressing-room. It was an untidy match that took time to warm up, was at best tepid, and then cooled off.

Not even the referee could get a result. He booked Mundee and Harvey, but missed Grainger and Hodge when they tried a spot of wrestling on the touchline.

Defeats for Birmingham, Oxford United and Wycombe Wanderers keep Brentford fifth, but David Webb, the manager, was making no excuses, even if the enforced rest last week had ruined the party in more ways than one. "We trained hard, did a lot of running, but running and resting don't make for winning," he said. Still, there is always next week, when the landmark will be reached in their match at Hull City.

BRENTFORD (4-4-2): K Dearden — M Grainger, B Ashby, J Bates, C Hutchings — D Annon, S Ratcliffe, D Mundee (sub: B Statham, 71min), L Harvey — R Taylor, N Forster.

SWANSEA CITY (4-3-3): R Freestone — J Ford, M Basham, K Walker, S Jenkins — K Ampadu, J Cornforth, D Penney — M Hayes, S Torpey, J Hodge (sub: A McFarlane, 75).

Referee: T West.

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Blackburn's back-up players demonstrate their worth

Collymore: lacked his usual spark

Peter Ball sees the Premiership leaders show resolve worthy of champions in Saturday's 3-0 win

Blackburn Rovers increasingly have the feel of champions about them. On Saturday, with a weakened team against a well-organised, defensive opposition — the ingredients for an upset — *they showed their mettle, grinding out a win* when below their best.

Can you grind out a 3-0 win? Blackburn can. Above all, with Shearer leading the way, they are strong. "It's a physical game and I don't think many of us are going to get beaten one on one," Colin Hendry said.

It was not pretty, but it was effective, their all-round strength answering any questions, if there were any, about their resources and resolve.

With Sherwood suspended, Ripley and Le Saux injured, the depth of their squad had its *most serious test* to date, but Blackburn came through with flying colours. Warhurst *moved into midfield* with distinction, and Wright, Kenny Dalglish's first signing, Slater and Pearce came in to give solid displays. No comfort there for Manchester United.

Blackburn may prove to be *the least popular champions since Arsenal — possibly since* the Arsenal double side, whom they resemble in many ways. Frank Clark, the Forest manager could have been describing the team of John Radford and Ray Kennedy in his *appreciation of the Premiership leaders.*

"They've got very good players and they all work like hell for each other." Clark said. "I don't know any other way of playing. They'll be in there at the death, that's for certain.

"Manchester United set you slightly different problems, but I don't know how people can say that one is a better way of playing than the other way. *Blackburn are top scorers in the division, and that's what* the game is about, isn't it?

"I thought they gave an object lesson to any team today — very talented players prepared to work their socks off for the good of the team. Until *this week Chris Sutton was the most expensive front player in* England, and he got more tackles on David Phillips, who is our hub in midfield, than any player has done in any game this season. If you can get a *£5 million front player to* do that for you, you've got a chance."

It does not appeal to everyone. "They are very disciplined and very ruthless," Bryan Roy said. But if the home fans are *satisfied with their performances*, why *not* play their way? "In Holland, Germany and Italy and all across Europe, fans wouldn't be satisfied. They want to be entertained more."

On Saturday entertainment *was at a premium for an hour*. Kevin Keegan has described Blackburn as regimented, a description which looked more apt by the minute as Blackburn beat unceasingly but *unavailingly* at Forest's defence. With the direct assaults of the SAS (Shearer and Sutton) repulsed, they had shown little of the variety needed to break down the *visitors*.

A *month ago*, Nottingham Forest had gone to Old Trafford and defied United to break through. On Saturday they again set out to contain, pulling Roy back and setting up a three-man central midfield. But, as signs of *frustration began to show*, Blackburn had the luck that champions need.

A deflection from Warhurst's soft shot provided the first goal, Crossley going down like the proverbial sack *of coal as the ball crept past* him. *Their defensive strategy* had broken down, but Forest's hopes of rescue by the RAC (Roy and Collymore) were unfulfilled.

Roy's enthusiasm had been *diminished when Warhurst* escaped censure in the second minute for a cruel tackle from behind. Collymore ran willingly but without the fire which had burnt so bright at *Old Trafford, increasingly left on the floor looking up* imploringly but vainly to Joe Worrall for protection — or at least a free kick or two. "I think that's normal in England, not blowing for fouls," Roy said afterwards.

Instead, Blackburn were off and running. Sutton *showed* he could create as well as tackle, sending in Wilcox for an excellent second goal. Chettle made Forest's misery complete by bundling Sutton's *header over the line. Would Sutton claim it? "Stuart Ripley's* claiming it, and he wasn't even playing," Dalglish said.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — H Berg, I Pearce, C Hendry, A Wright — R Slater, P Warhurst, M Atkins, J Wilcox (sub: M Newell, 69min) — A Shearer, C Sutton.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-5-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, S Chettle, C Tiler, A Haaland — S Stone, S Gemmill, D Phillips, I Woan, B Roy — S Collymore.

Referee: J Worrall.

Ferdinand lacking in bite as Fashanu spits blood

Aston Villa 2
Queens Park Rangers .. 1

By Alyson Rudd

NO CLUB below Tottenham in the Premiership table can *afford to scoff at the prospect of relegation and this match* underlined just how difficult it is going to be to predict this season's losers.

Fortunately for Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, his gamble *in playing a three-*man defence paid off as what could easily have turned out to be a cat-and-mouse tussle became more a kangaroo-and-*dolphin affair*, players bouncing around the field with abandon, occasionally putting together moves of real intelligence.

Gerry Francis won the manager-of-the-month award for transforming Tottenham Hotspur. The transformation at Villa Park is rather more subtle — some would say barely *perceptible. But* the purchase of Tommy Johnson and Gary Charles, from Derby County, indicates that Little will be trying to blend the experience of the squad *he inherited* with players who have not even acknowledged they will be 40 one day.

Charles will have to wait for his debut but Johnson, *playing his part in an attacking* trio, was *competent enough* and very nearly scored, only to see his best effort cleared off the line by Yates.

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The real threat was *Fashanu. He left the pitch in the second half with a broken* tooth, which was appropriate because, in terms of physical presence, he was almost toothless. Instead, Fashanu concentrated on attacking the ball, *which he did with perfection* to give Villa the lead in the ninth minute when he connected with Teale's deflected long-range free kick.

Teale had to struggle with Bosnich *to prevent the goal-*keeper taking the free kick. The Australian can be, according to Little, "a little bit *hyperactive*". *This is not an adjective that could be app*lied to Ferdinand. He worked hard but lacked the sparkle and energy that has induced speculation about his future club and price.

The defeat flung *Rangers* closer to the relegation zone but Ray Wilkins, their manager, who has never claimed that his ambition this season *is anything other than to keep* the club in the Premiership, was not in the least bit disheartened, so positively did his team play for most of the match.

Meaker headed the ball away for a corner when he had time to do otherwise and Staunton's corner was met by Ehiogu to extend Villa's lead. Yates pulled a goal back for *Rangers and, although there* were then only two minutes left, it says much for the visitors' contribution that a draw still looked a possibility.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-3): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, P McGrath, S Teale — E Barrett, I Taylor, D Yorke, S Staunton — T Johnson, D Saunders, J Fashanu (sub: R Houghton, 61min)

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A Roberts — D Bardsley, S Yates, D Maddix, C Wilson (sub: A McCarthy, 90) — A Impey, I Holloway, S Hodge, M Meaker — K Gallen, L Ferdinand

Referee: A Wilkie

West Ham slip into Premiership relegation zone after undeserved defeat

Klinsmann rounds off spirited fightback

David Miller watches Tottenham rally to win a London derby 2-1 after being outplayed throughout the first half

Klinsmann makes tracks towards the West Ham goal after athletically evading Bishop's desperate sliding tackle at Upton Park. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Surely West Ham must do something about their nostalgic anthem, if they cannot do anything about their team. Another bubble burst, another dream *fading, another relegation* contest coming into view. Romance can take you so far, but this is ridiculous.

Here was a match they should have won, deserved at least to draw, and ultimately *threw away, having played the* better football. Their *enduring* faithful have seen it happen so often over the past 30 years or more. The cocky Tottenham crowd behind one goal — part of the largest Upton Park *attendance so far this season, now that the new North Stand* is fully open — went home chuckling at their good fortune in extending the unbeaten run, under Gerry Francis's *direction*, to 11 matches.

The result turned, wretchedly for West Ham, through an error on the hour by Miklosko in goal, who, with the sturdy Potts at centre back, has been an ever-present this season.

Whatever persuaded the West Ham loyalists to boo Jürgen Klinsmann from the first kick? Their jeers were taunting fate and Klinsmann duly had the last, winning *word, scoring ten minutes* from time when the West Ham rearguard stood as static as milk bottles on the doorstep.

At this point Terry Venables, *who at rather more than hand-shaking distance* had joined his former chairman Alan Sugar in the directors' box, departed. He had come to look at prospective England players but, frankly, *on the day* had seen none; other than a game veteran. Gary Mabbutt, giving away years and height to the lofty Dutchman Boere, did his characteristic best *to hold together a disintegrating Totten*ham during the first half.

You need fire in the belly to play for England. Every international match is more of a slog than an *exhibition. Sheringham* and Anderton, the chief candidates for Venables's consideration, were peripheral figures throughout that first half, during which West Ham, *showing all the grit and pace they will need in the forthcom*ing weeks, outplayed Tottenham in every section of the field.

Sure, Sheringham and Anderton came into their own *when the tide turned ten* minutes into the second half and West Ham's defence came under pressure. Yet by then, West Ham should have had victory secure.

Moncur and Bishop, quick and inventive in midfield, had made Howells and Popescu, their opposite numbers, look as if they were running with the studs *inside their boots*, while Holmes and Hughes on the flanks gave Austin and Campbell the run-around.

With West Ham streaming forward, Boere in the air and Cottee *on the ground* were pulling Calderwood and *Mabbutt in every direction. At* the other end, Barmby and Anderton could not get into the game on Tottenham's flanks, so that the service to Klinsmann and Sheringham, *inaccurate and mostly in the air*, offered the two forwards little or no scope. The recent Tottenham revival had now stalled at the lights, and the AA was nowhere in sight.

Boere had headed close over the bar from a cross by Moncur as early as the fourth minute, and almost immediately another centre by *Breacker, overlapping* from *left back, had been forced* behind for a corner. Then Bishop, cutting inside on the right, let fly a dipping left-foot shot which Walker had to fall on in a *hurry*.

Tottenham sensed they were in trouble, even though Barmby, reeling free on the left, went round Potts and rolled the ball square across the penalty area. To nobody.

Back came the energetic Moncur, leaving Spurs standing in midfield with a couple of sidesteps, and his low cross shot was only just turned away by Walker at full stretch. Now, with the match only 12 *minutes old*, West Ham deservedly went ahead. Hughes crossed from the right and there was Boere heading down and past Walker from the far post.

> 'The recent revival had stalled at the lights with the AA nowhere in sight'

In the next 15 minutes West Ham might have had another *three. Another cross from* Hughes was mis-headed downwards by Mabbutt and Walker only just managed to snatch the ball off Boere's feet. Bishop, well placed, blazed *over the bar and, from a lovely move on the right between* Moncur, Hughes and Bishop, Moncur, from an acute angle, *hit a fierce shot just wide.*

Tottenham revived a little approaching half-time. A misdirected header by Potts from Anderton's corner on the left *flew straight up in the air. Mabbutt was underneath it on* its descent and his glance to Barmby was fired high into *the stand*. Klinsmann, at last getting the better of the defence, went round Miklosko wide on the left, but the angle to an empty net was too acute.

West Ham continued to *attack in the second half but* failed to capitalise. Many thought they should have had a penalty when Popescu felled Holmes, but the foul was committed a yard outside the *penalty area, never mind that* Holmes fell in a heap inside. And now Tottenham, fired by fierce words from their manager in the dressing-room, *began to make amends.*

An embarrassing muddle between Brown and Miklosko resulted in Sheringham cracking the ball against the outside of a post. Barmby half-*volleyed over the bar and now* came the equaliser, thanks to Miklosko. He ineffectually *punched down a cross from* Anderton and Sheringham had the simplest of chances. West Ham sensed that things were running away from them. *Sheringham went close and finally Barmby's glancing* pass sent Klinsmann through for another simple goal, his first in seven matches.

There were more cries for a penalty when *Boere collided with Calderwood. The defend*er had obstructed, then Boere fell in pushing his marker away. It did not look like a penalty to me.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, A Martin, S Potts, K Brown — M Hughes (sub: M Allen, 74min), J Moncur, I Bishop, M Holmes (sub: T Morley, 80) — A Cottee, J Boere

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, S Campbell (sub: J Edinburgh, 76) — D Anderton, D Howells, G Popescu, N Barmby — J Klinsmann, E Sheringham

Referee: B Hill.

Fresh face buoys Graham

Arsenal 1
Everton 1

By Russell Kempson

ON THE day Highbury opened its match-day crèche to all-comers for the first time, George *Graham* allowed a sighting of his vision for *youth. John Hartson*, 19, Britain's *most* expensive teenage footballer, was thrust straight into the FA Carling Premiership limelight, 24 hours after leaving the safe haven of Luton Town.

Hartson did not disappoint, unlike his colleagues, *and it* was understandable, if *inappropriate, that* Graham, the Arsenal manager, should adopt a *friendly* mode to mask an abundance of ills at his North London citadel. With Merson on the mend, Adams on his way back to *fitness* and Hartson, *all £2.5 million* of him, *settling in* nicely, Graham *could* be excused a purr and a preen.

Graham could brush aside the serious allegations facing him, that have prompted *an* FA Premier League *inquiry*; divert attention from the fact *that Arsenal* have failed to win a home Premiership match since late October; paint over the pallor enveloping Highbury with every outing. "I'm still planning for the future," *Graham, more jaunty than he has been for weeks*, said. "I'm *going to be here for a while.*" His confident demeanour is supported by continued exploits in the FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup, but a swift exit in either, or an unfavourable finding by the Premier League inquisition, could spell an undignified *end to a sophisticated reign.*

Still, above all, Hartson offered genuine hope. He appeared unfazed by his new environment. A delightful volleyed pass sent Parlour on his way: a speculative yet fiercely driven *cross-cum-shot* troubled *Southall*, his Welsh compatriot; an inadvertently raised arm when challenging Southall merited a yellow card. "I enjoyed it," he said. "I was a bit tired in the last five minutes, but I'm sure I'll learn a lot from *playing alongside* Ian Wright."

He will, providing he avoids the same temperamental flaws that have scarred Wright's career. Wright scored an immaculate goal, his twentieth of the season, when he swept in *Hillier's* delicate fourth-minute pass. *Soon after, he was booked for crassly booting* the ball away at a free kick, his eleventh caution of the campaign and one that takes him just an expletive away from 41 disciplinary points and another suspension.

Hartson *should* also avoid *the worst* excesses of Duncan Ferguson, Everton's skilful yet short-fused striker. Everton had equalised through Watson's first-half thunderbolt and were threatening to edge ahead when the red mist descended. Jensen tackled *late*, Ferguson *over-reacted by shoving him off two-handed*, and Everton were down to ten for the last 37 minutes.

Arsenal could still not break the stranglehold of mediocrity and, clearly, it will take more than jobs for the boys to do so.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Linighan, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour (sub: C Kiwomya, 71min), D Hillier, J Jensen (sub: S Morrow, 82), S Schwarz — I Wright, J Hartson

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Jackson, D Watson, D Unsworth, D Burrows — B Horne, J Parkinson, J Ebbrell, A Hinchcliffe — P Rideout, D Ferguson.

Referee: R Hart.

Lame excuses follow limp Coventry effort

Manchester City 0
Coventry City 0

By Ivo Tennant

SO THE linesmen were useless, the referee made the kind of decisions which lead to managers losing their jobs and the centre *forward* would *have had a hat-trick had this match* been played a month ago. Nothing changes in football, not if you listen to repining managers.

They have such jaundiced views on the game that it is a wonder they are always taken so seriously. *Mind you*, after a *goalless draw such as this, some entertainment* was needed. Amid his diatribe, Phil Neal, Coventry's manager, cheekily said that the only way his team would have gained a penalty was with Manchester City's chairman in his forward line.

Yet to the *naked eye above the halfway line, no* Coventry forward was deserving of a penalty, let alone a goal. Their only two chances came in the same minute when Dublin's hooked volley and Flynn's attempt to follow up were well *blocked by Dibble. But moral* victories are no use to any manager.

Brian Horton would sacrifice any number of those for having a few more fit players. Quinn might be back for the *FA Cup* replay *against* Notts *County on Wednesday but* Beagrie, who *almost* had to be pushed out onto the pitch, might not. Lomas, who cracked a fibula last week, will not play again for two months.

"Don't forget Wednesday night," was the Tannoy announcer's parting shot. But *the likelihood is that some* supporters will. Knocked out of the Coca-Cola Cup in no uncertain way by Crystal Palace and having taken three League points out of a possible 21, City are looking increasingly wearisome.

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A Dibble — N Summerbee, K Curle, A Kernaghan, T Phelan — D *Brightwell* (sub: F Simpson, 71min), M Gaudino, G Flitcroft, P Beagrie — P Walsh, U Rosler.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — B Borrows, S Pressley, S Morgan, P Williams — J Darby, S Flynn, M Marsh, L Jenkinson — D Dublin, P Ndlovu

Referee: D Gallagher

Palace discover riches

Crystal Palace 2
Leicester City 0

By Keith Pike

NOBODY could have been in any doubt about the relevance of Ricky Newman's opening goal for Crystal Palace on Saturday. All goals are gratefully *received by supporters, of course*, but when Newman's right-foot half-volley from 20 yards curled into the top far corner of Kevin Poole's net, the response was not so much relief as euphoria.

Even Alan Smith, the normally undemonstrative *Palace* manager, leapt to *his* feet and *punched the air in delight*. Well *he might*: the last time he had cause to celebrate a Palace goal in the FA Carling Premiership, there were still 50 shopping days to Christmas, the Government had a majority in the Commons and £7 *million was a potential National Lottery jackpot*, not the *fee for a striker in suspect* health who had just gone nine games without a goal.

Later, as he patiently and courteously ran the gamut of press, radio and television interviews, Smith expounded on the real significance of Newman's goal, and the one by George Ndah *from close range on the stroke of half-*time that condemned a woeful Leicester City side to defeat. They were, in effect, a two-fingered gesture to the big-money clubs that prey on the likes of Palace.

Newman, *like Ian Wright before him, had been found by* Palace in non-league football, with Cranleigh, in the Parasol Combined Counties League, and nurtured into a player of rich potential. "It is ironic that the two who scored today cost nothing," Smith said. "Ndah *has been with the club since he was 14. Newman since he was* 15. It *is easy to sit in someone* else's stand and say you have found a player that's worth £10 million . . . they don't take much bloody finding if you do that. Now perhaps some of these other so-called scouts *can go down to places like Cranleigh and find a few of their own.*"

Smith's controlled if barely concealed anger is understandable. Despite this win, Palace's excellent cup form and the fact that there are at least half a dozen worse sides in the Premiership, he has a relegation fight to contend *with and is constantly having to deal with speculation that* he will have to do so without his prize asset, Chris Armstrong. "Armstrong has just signed a four-year contract, is incredibly well paid and doesn't want to leave," Smith *said. "I can't afford to sell him. Other players would want to* go and we could go out of the Premiership, which would cost us millions." Yet, for all that, Smith must know it is likely to happen, and sooner rather than later.

Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, confirmed later *that Palace had rejected* a £4.7 *million* bid from Newcastle United for Armstrong but, ominously, added: "It was not rebuffed immediately." An improved bid may yet find Smith back scouring the likes of Cranleigh for a replacement.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N Martyn — J Humphrey, R Shaw, C Coleman, D Gordon — G Southgate, D Pitcher, R Newman, G Ndah (sub: A Preece, 74min) — C Armstrong, J Salako

LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K Poole — R Smith, N Mohan, C Hill, L Philpott — J Lawrence, S Thompson (sub: D Lowe, 56), M Draper, M Blake, I Ormondroyd (sub: D Oldfield, 73) — I Roberts

Referee: P Durkin

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ARSENAL	(1) 1	**EVERTON**	(1) 1
Wright 4		Watson 13	
34,743			

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Linighan, M Keown, R Parlour (sub: G Kiwomya, 77min), D Hillier, J Jensen (sub: S Morrow, 82), S Schwarz, J Hartson, I Wright. Booked: Hartson, Wright.
Everton: N Southall, D Jackson, A Hinchcliffe, D Watson, D Ferguson, E Horne, J Ebbrell, P Rideout, D Burrows, J Parkinson, D Unsworth. Booked: Ebbrell, Burrows, Parkinson. Sent off: Ferguson, 52. Referee: R Hart.

A VILLA	(1) 2	**QPR**	(0) 1
Fashanu 7		Yates 88	
Ehiogu 76		26,578	

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, E Barrett, S Staunton, S Teale, P McGrath, U Ehiogu, I Taylor, J Fashanu (sub: R Houghton, 61min), D Saunders, D Yorke, T Johnson. Booked: Taylor.
Queens Park Rangers: A Roberts, D Bardsley, C Wilson (sub: A McCarthy, 89), S Yates, D Maddix, K Gallen, A Impey, I Holloway, L Ferdinand, M Meaker, S Hodge. Booked: Yates. Referee: A Wilkie.

BLACKBURN	(0) 3	**NOTTM FOR**	(0) 0
Warhurst 54		27,510	
Wilcox 78			
Sutton 88			

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, A Wright, C Hendry, A Shearer, J Wilcox (sub: M Newell, 89min), C Sutton, S Slater, H Berg, M Atkins, P Warhurst, J Pearce.
Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Chettle, C Tiler, D Phillips, S Gemmill (sub: P McGregor, 77), S Collymore, S Stone, I Woan, A I Haaland, B Roy. Referee: J Worrall.

CHELSEA	(1) 1	**SHEFF WED**	(0) 1
Spencer 34		Nolan 90	
17,285			

Chelsea: D Kharine, A Clarke, S Minto, J Kjeldbjerg, E Johnsen, F Sinclair, J Spencer, P Furlong, M Stein (sub: E Newton, 73min), G Peacock, N Spackman.
Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, C Waddle, M Bright (sub: G Watson, 45), J Sheridan, C Bart-Williams, D Walker, K Ingesson, G Whittingham, A Briscoe (sub: D Petrescu, 70). Booked: Atherton. Referee: G Willard.

C PALACE	(2) 2	**LEICESTER**	(0) 0
Newman 24		12,707	
Ndah 44			

Crystal Palace: N Martyn, J Humphrey, D Gordon, G Southgate, C Coleman, C Armstrong, J Salako, R Shaw, D Pitcher, R Newman, G Ndah (sub: A Preece, 74min). Booked: Gordon.
Leicester City: K Poole, R Smith, N Mohan, C Hill, L Philpott, S Thompson (sub: D Lowe, 56), M Draper, M Blake, I Ormondroyd (sub: D Oldfield, 73), I Roberts, J Lawrence. Booked: Smith, Poole, Mohan, Blake, Hill. Referee: P Durkin.

LEEDS	(0) 0	**SOUTHAMPTON**	(0) 0
28,953			

Leeds United: J Lukic, G Kelly, D Wetherall, J Pemberton, N Worthington, L Radebe (sub: P Masinga, 46min), C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed, D White (sub: D Wallace, 67), B Deane. Booked: White.
Southampton: B Grobbelaar, J Kenna, K Monkou, R Hall, F Benali, J Dodd, T Widdrington (sub: D Hughes, 58), J Magilton, N Maddison, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley. Booked: Monkou. Referee: P Don.

LIVERPOOL	(0) 0	**IPSWICH**	(1) 1
32,733		Tanner 30	

Liverpool: D James, R Jones, P Babb, J Scales, N Ruddock, S I Bjornebye (sub: M Walters, 56min), J Redknapp, M Thomas, I Rush, R Fowler, S McManaman.
Ipswich Town: C Forrest, F Yallop, G Johnson, J Wark, D Linighan, G Williams, S Sedgley, C Thomsen, A Tanner, S Slater, A Paz. Booked: Johnson, Linighan. Referee: R Gifford.

MAN CITY	(0) 0	**COVENTRY**	(0) 0
20,632			

Manchester City: A Dibble, N Summerbee, K Curle, A Kernaghan, I Brightwell (sub: A Mike, 72min), T Phelan, G Flitcroft, M Gaudino, P Beagrie, P Walsh, U Rosler. Booked: Brightwell, Phelan, Rosler.
Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, S Morgan, S Pressley, P Williams, M Flynn, J Darby, M Marsh, L Jenkinson, D Dublin, P Ndlovu. Booked: Darby, Marsh. Referee: D Gallagher.

NORWICH	(1) 1	**WIMBLEDON**	(1) 2
Goss 22		Reeves 44	
18,261		Ekoku 49	

Norwich City: A Marshall, D Sutch, M Bowen, J Polston, J Newsome, N Adams (sub: S Prior, 58min), I Crook (sub: A Akinbiyi, 69), J Goss, R Ullathorne, M Sheron, A Ward. Booked: Sutch.
Wimbledon: H Segers, K Cunningham, A Kimble, A Reeves, C Perry, W Barton, V Jones, R Earle, D Holdsworth (sub: A Clarke, 20), J Goodman (sub: G Elkins, 76), E Ekoku. Booked: Ekoku. Referee: M Bodenham.

WEST HAM	(1) 1	**TOTTENHAM**	(0) 2
Boere 10		Sheringham 58	
24,573		Klinsmann 79	

West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, A Martin, S Potts, K Brown, I Bishop, J Moncur, A Cottee, J Boere, M Holmes (sub: T Morley, 85min), M Hughes (sub: M Allen, 73).
Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, S Campbell (sub: J Edinburgh, 75), K Calderwood, G Mabbutt, D Howells, G Popescu, N Barmby, D Anderton, E Sheringham, J Klinsmann. Booked: Austin. Referee: B Hill.

Yesterday

NEWCASTLE	(0) 1	**MAN UTD**	(1) 1
Kitson 67		Hughes 13	
34,471			

Newcastle United: P Srnicek, B Venison, J Beresford, D Peacock, D Howey, R Elliott, R Fox, R Lee, P Kitson, M Hottiger, L Clark. Booked: Beresford, Elliott.
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin, S Bruce, R Keane, G Pallister, E Cantona, N Butt (D May 45), B McClair, M Hughes (P Scholes 15), R Giggs, L Sharpe. Booked: Keane, Sharpe. Referee: S Lodge.

Wright: twentieth goal

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	FAC	CCC	Euro	Other	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	20	0	2	1	0	23
Fowler (Liverpool)	20	0	2	0	0	22
* Ward (Norwich)	12	4	1	0	4	21
Wright (Arsenal)	12	0	3	5	0	20
Sutton (Blackburn)	14	1	3	1	0	19
Le Tissier (Soton)	12	1	5	0	0	18
Klinsmann (Tottenham)	12	0	4	0	0	16
* Cole (Man Utd)	9	0	2	4	0	15
Ferdinand (QPR)	12	1	1	0	0	14

** Ward's tally includes 17 goals for Crewe Alexandra, all Cole's goals have been scored for Newcastle United*

DISMISSALS

EVERTON'S Duncan Ferguson became the 42nd player in the FA Carling Premiership to be sent off, 15 more than for the whole of last season, and Everton's first of the campaign. Only five teams have no blemish on their records. Rather more revealing is the change in fortunes of some clubs as a result of the disciplinary rule changes. While one dismissal could be viewed as a seasonal difference, Wimbledon's five red cards compares poorly on their 1993/4 total of zero. The disciplinary records of Blackburn Rovers, Coventry City and Manchester City are almost as dark, each with three sendings off compared to none last year while Leicester City are averaging a dismal one dismissal every four matches.

	P	S/o	Avge	'93 s/o	Chng +/-
Arsenal	24	2	0.08	1	+1
Aston Villa	24	2	0.08	1	+1
Blackburn	23	3	0.13	0	+3
Chelsea	23	3	0.13	2	+1
Coventry	24	3	0.13	0	+3
C Palace	24	0	–	1	-1
Everton	23	1	0.04	0	+1
Ipswich	24	1	0.04	0	+1
Leeds	23	0	–	0	–
Leicester	24	6	0.25	5	+1
Liverpool	24	0	–	1	-1
Man City	24	3	0.13	0	+3
Man Utd	24	2	0.08	2	–
Newcastle	23	2	0.09	1	+1
Norwich	24	0	–	3	-3
Nottm Forest	24	1	0.04	2	-1
QPR	23	3	0.13	3	–
Sheffield Wed	24	2	0.08	2	–
Southampton	24	0	–	1	-1
Tottenham *	24	1	0.04	1	–
West Ham	24	2	0.08	1	+1
Wimbledon	24	5	0.21	0	+5
Totals	261	42	0.16	27	+15

* Tottenham have had a sending off reduced to a booking on appeal

F.A. CARLING PREMIERSHIP

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Blackburn	23	10	0	1	34	11	7	4	1	18	7	55	+34
2 Man Utd	24	10	1	1	25	3	5	4	3	20	17	50	+25
3 Liverpool	24	8	3	1	24	6	5	3	4	20	14	45	+24
4 Nottm For	24	7	3	2	20	11	5	3	4	16	15	42	+10
5 Newcastle	23	6	5	0	24	10	5	3	4	17	15	41	+16
6 Tottenham	24	5	3	4	19	17	6	3	3	22	18	39	+6
7 Wimbledon	24	7	1	4	18	17	3	4	5	12	21	35	-8
8 Leeds	23	6	4	2	16	11	3	3	5	13	16	34	+2
9 Norwich	24	7	3	2	17	10	2	3	7	5	15	33	-3
10 Sheff Wed	24	4	5	3	15	12	4	3	5	18	20	32	-1
11 Man City	24	5	5	2	27	16	3	2	7	6	22	31	-5
12 Chelsea	23	4	4	4	19	12	4	2	5	11	19	30	-1
13 Arsenal	24	3	5	4	14	14	4	3	5	13	13	29	0
14 Soton	24	4	4	4	16	16	2	6	4	18	23	28	-5
15 QPR	23	5	2	4	20	18	2	4	6	15	22	27	-5
16 C Palace	24	3	3	6	8	12	3	5	4	9	10	26	-5
17 Coventry	24	4	4	4	10	15	2	4	6	11	25	26	-19
18 A Villa	24	3	6	3	12	11	2	4	6	17	23	25	-5
19 West Ham	24	6	2	4	14	10	1	2	9	8	20	25	-8
20 Everton	23	4	5	3	18	15	1	3	7	4	17	23	-10
21 Ipswich	24	3	1	8	17	23	2	3	7	9	24	19	-21
22 Leicester	24	3	4	5	15	17	0	2	10	7	26	15	-21

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

BARNSLEY	(0) 3	**LUTON**	(0) 1
Redfearn 67		Dixon 47	
Liddell 72, 79		4,808	
CHARLTON	(3) 3	**DERBY**	(1) 4
Whyte 23		Short 29	
Pardew 38		Gabbiadini 50, 87	
Robson 43		Stallard 75	
9,389			
GRIMSBY	(1) 4	**SOUTHEND**	(1) 1
Shakespeare 42		Chapman 2	
Groves 54		3,915	
Woods 56 Croft 63			
NOTTS COUNTY	(0) 3	**BURNLEY**	(0) 0
White 50 Devlin 69		9,702	
McSwegan 87			
OLDHAM	(0) 0	**SUNDERLAND**	(0) 0
9,742			
PORTSMOUTH	(0) 0	**BRISTOL C**	(0) 0
8,803			
READING	(0) 0	**WEST BROM**	(0) 2
9,390		Hunt 51	
		Donovan 90	
SHEFF UTD	(0) 1	**MILLWALL**	(1) 1
Gage 48		Beard 18	
12,650			
WATFORD	(0) 0	**BOLTON**	(0) 0
9,113			
WOLVES	(1) 2	**STOKE**	(0) 0
Kelly 16		28,298	
Dennison 86			

Yesterday

PORT VALE	(1) 2	**TRANMERE**	(0) 0
Tankard 31		7,944	
Foyle 58			
SWINDON	(1) 2	**MIDDLESBROUGH**	(1) 1
Fjortoft 23		Hignett 14	
Horlock 57		5,885	

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL	(1) 2	**CAMBRIDGE**	(1) 3
Mellon 39		Butler 44	
Murphy 62		Corazzin 65, 73	
4,076			
BOURNEMOUTH	(0) 0	**PLYMOUTH**	(0) 0
4,913			
BRENTFORD	(0) 0	**SWANSEA**	(0) 0
7,211			
BRISTOL R	(0) 3	**OXFORD UTD**	(2) 2
Taylor 73		Druce 12, 15	
Miller 76		5,675	
Stewart 80			
CARDIFF	(0) 0	**HUDDERSFIELD**	(0) 0
2,808			
CREWE	(1) 4	**BRIGHTON**	(0) 0
Adebola 24		4,286	
Collins 54			
Smith 59 Clarkson 83			
PETERBORO	(0) 0	**BRADFORD**	(0) 0
4,400			
ROTHERHAM	(1) 2	**WYCOMBE**	(0) 0
Brown (og) 8		3,537	
Hayward 82			
SHREWSBURY	(0) 1	**CHESTER**	(0) 0
Evans 70		3,879	
STOCKPORT	(1) 4	**HULL**	(0) 0
Beaumont 12		4,516	
Halliwell 48, 80			
Armstrong 90			
WREXHAM	(1) 4	**L ORIENT**	(0) 1
Bennett 6, 47, 63		Bogie (pen) 67	
Connolly 58		6,616	
YORK	(1) 2	**BIRMINGHAM**	(0) 0
McCarthy 33		6,828	
Canham 72			

THIRD DIVISION

BURY	(1) 1	**HEREFORD**	(0) 1
Carter 39		Reece (pen) 85	
2,708			
CARLISLE	(0) 0	**PRESTON**	(0) 0
10,684			
CHESTERFIELD	(3) 3	**SCUNTHORPE**	(0) 1
Lormor 23		Bullimore (pen) 81	
Moss 40, 41		3,245	
COLCHESTER	(0) 1	**BARNET**	(1) 1
Putney 49		Hodges 44	
3,706			
DARLINGTON	(0) 0	**FULHAM**	(0) 0
2,113			
EXETER	(0) 0	**ROCHDALE**	(0) 0
2,316			
HARTLEPOOL	(0) 3	**SCARBORO**	(1) 3
Thompson 67, 77		Norris 13, (pen) 72	
Sloan 75		D'auria 87	
1,784			
LINCOLN	(0) 1	**DONCASTER**	(0) 0
Davis (pen) 52		2,771	
MANSFIELD	(1) 4	**WIGAN**	(0) 3
Holland 8		Kilford 48	
Peters 61		Rimmer 62	
Wilkinson 72		Lyons 85	
Donaldson 89		2,618	
NORTHAMPTON	(0) 2	**GILLINGHAM**	(0) 0
Harmon (pen) 79		5,529	
Trott 83			
TORQUAY	(0) 3	**WALSALL**	(1) 2
Okorie 60		Houghton 45	
Hathaway 63		Marsh 62	
Sturridge 69		2,976	

SENDINGS OFF

First division: Snodin (Oldham) 69; Webber (Millwall) 47; Webber (Millwall) 47.

Third division: MacKenzie (Hereford), 3; Horne (Hartlepool) 89; Rimmer (Wigan) 75.

GOALSCORERS

First division: 23 Fjortoft (Swindon). 19 Aldridge (Tranmere). 16 Whyte (Charlton). 14 Hendrie (Middlesbrough); Creaney (Portsmouth). 13 McCarthy (Oldham); McGinlay (Bolton); Kelly (Wolverhampton).
Second division: 28 Bennett (Wrexham). 21 Stewart (Bristol Rovers). 19 Booth (Huddersfield); Moody (Oxford United). 18 Goater (Rotherham). 17 Forster (Brentford).
Third division: 18 Reeves (Carlisle). 17 Freedman (Barnet). 16 Wilkinson (Mansfield); Lightbourne (Walsall). 14 Carter (Bury).

Scottish Premier: 16 Coyne (Motherwell). 14 Hateley (Rangers). 12 O'Neill (Hibernian).
First division: 18 Petrie (Dunfermline). 17 O'Boyle (St Johnstone). 16 Dalziel (Raith); Britton (Dundee).
Second division: 13 Scott (East Fife). 11 Hawke (Berwick). 10 Alexander (Greenock Morton). Lilley (Greenock Morton).
Third division: 24 Yardley (Cowdenbeath). 16 Kennedy (Montrose). 13 McGlashan (Montrose).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

ABERDEEN	(1) 3	**PARTICK**	(0) 1
Dinnie (og) 3		Pittman 86	
Jess 54		9,716	
Shearer 59			
CELTIC	(0) 2	**KILMARNOCK**	(0) 1
Falconer 53		Black (pen) 73	
Collins (pen) 89		25,342	
FALKIRK	(0) 2	**RANGERS**	(1) 3
McDonald 77		Huistra (pen) 45, 87	
May 79		McCall 90	
12,507			
HEARTS	(1) 2	**DUNDEE UTD**	(0) 0
Millar 45		8,656	
Jamieson 73			

Postponed: Motherwell v Hibernian.

FIRST DIVISION

AYR	(1) 1	**ST JOHNSTONE**	(0) 3
Jackson 11		Curran 71	
1,955		Davenport 73	
		McMartin 89	
DUNDEE	(0) 0	**AIRDRIE**	(0) 1
4,030		Smith 48	
HAMILTON	(0) 1	**STRANRAER**	(0) 0
Duffield 89		1,015	
RAITH	(0) 1	**CLYDEBANK**	(0) 0
Dennis 90		3,129	
ST MIRREN	(1) 2	**DUNFERMLINE**	(2) 2
Taylor 15		Petrie 12, 35	
Inglis 48		2,736	

SECOND DIVISION

BRECHIN	(2) 3	**MEADOWBANK**	(0) 1
McKellar 40		Sorbie 88	
Price (pen) 44, 70		337	
G MORTON	(0) 2	**BERWICK**	(0) 1
Rajamaki 83		Gallacher 46	
Lilley (pen) 87		1,951	
QUEEN OF SOUTH	(0) 0	**DUMBARTON**	(0) 0
1,066			
STENHOUSEMUIR	(0) 2	**CLYDE**	(0) 2
Hutchinson 56		Dickson 66	
Sprott (pen) 76		Parks 87	
1,000			
STIRLING	(2) 3	**EAST FIFE**	(0) 0
McInnes 31, 42, 68		870	

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION	(0) 0	**ALLOA**	(0) 1
400		McCulloch 85	
CALEY THIS	(0) 1	**ARBROATH**	(0) 1
Brennan 90		Murray 54	
1,060			
COWDENBEATH	(0) 0	**ROSS COUNTY**	(1) 3
381		Ferries 45, 78	
		Grant (pen) 68	
FORFAR	(0) 3	**QUEEN'S PARK**	(0) 0
Bingham 50		501	
Hannigan 80			
Morgan 89			

Postponed: East Stirling v Montrose

SENDINGS OFF

Premier division: McDonald (Partick) 49; Hughes (Falkirk) 95.
First division: Cameron (Raith) 22; McCathie (Dunfermline), 70.
Second division: McInnes (Greenock Morton), 63.
Third division: Collins (Albion), 72; Malloy (Cowdnbth), 82.

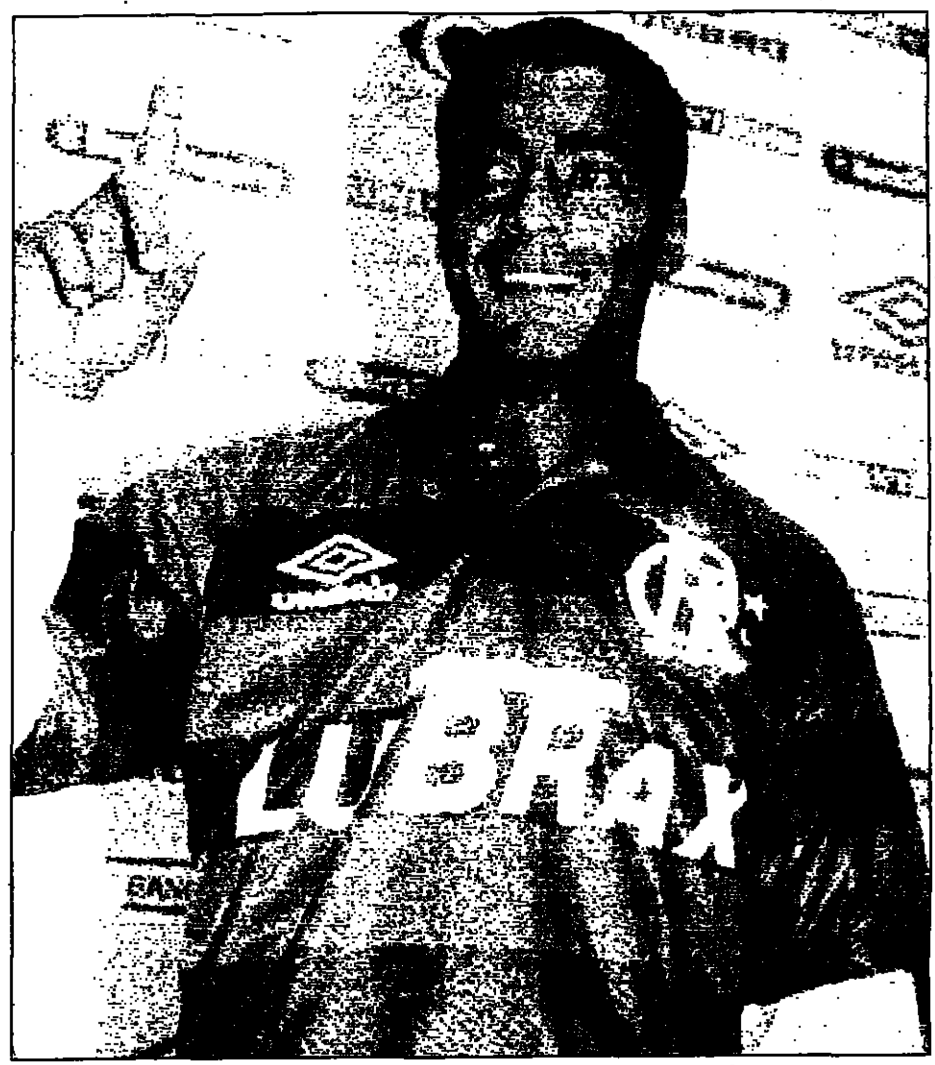
CONFERENCE

ALTRINCHAM	(1) 1	**YEOVIL**	(0) 3
Terry 1		Wilson 49, 87	
908		Spencer 56	
BROMSGROVE	(2) 5	**WOKING**	(2) 5
Devery 2 Carter 5		Walker 25, (pen) 68	
Carter 64 Taylor 70		Tucker 36 Steele 54	
Gray 73		Payne 77	
1,333			
DOVER	(0) 0	**KETTERING**	(0) 2
1,057		Alford 59	
		Arnold 73	
FARNBOROUGH	(1) 3	**GATESHEAD**	(0) 1
Boothe 3, 57		Dobson 49	
Thompson 59		788	
MACCLESFIELD	(1) 2	**DAG & RED**	(0) 0
Howarth 40		1,179	
Lyons 77			
NORTHWICH	(0) 0	**STEVENAGE**	(1) 1
Venables 19		1,026	
SOUTHPORT	(1) 3	**BATH**	(1) 1
Gamble 40, 76		Crocker 2	
Thomas 87		1,015	
STALYBRIDGE	(0) 1	**WELLING**	(1) 3
Shaughnessy 68		Copley 2	
632		Farley 89	
		Robbins 90	
TELFORD	(1) 3	**KIDDERMINSTER**	(0) 1
Roberts 43, 67		Casey 75	
Wilson 53		1,409	

Postponed: Runcorn v Merthyr

		HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclesfield	26	10	3	2	27	11	7	2	2	22	12	56
2 Woking	26	6	5	2	29	18	7	2	4	20	18	46
3 Gateshead	29	8	3	4	20	10	5	3	6	20	27	45
4 Southport	26	9	2	3	38	16	4	2	6	9	17	43
5 Altrincham	25	6	1	7	24	20	6	4	1	27	13	41
6 Kidderminster	28	5	4	4	20	14	6	4	5	28	28	41
7 Farnborough	27	6	2	4	14	15	6	3	6	15	21	41
8 Halifax	23	8	2	1	30	9	3	4	5	15	22	39
9 Kettering	26	7	3	3	19	12	4	3	6	16	16	39
10 Bromsgrove	27	6	5	3	31	26	5	1	7	18	20	39
11 Stevenage	26	6	2	5	26	19	5	2	6	15	15	37
12 Telford	24	8	5	0	21	7	1	3	7	11	21	35
13 Northwich	25	3	6	4	21	18	4	5	3	22	18	32
14 Welling	26	5	2	6	21	22	4	3	6	18	25	32
15 Stalybridge	27	7	1	5	19	19	2	4	8	16	29	32
16 Bath	28	5	2	5	24	24	3	4	8	14	27	31
17 Runcorn	25	5	4	2	18	14	3	2	9	15	33	30
18 Dover	26	3	8	2	15	12	3	3	7	10	18	29
19 Dag & Red	27	4	3	6	14	20	3	4	7	14	26	28
20 Merthyr	24	6	3	5	24	20	1	3	6	10	21	27
21 Yeovil	26	3	3	7	16	19	2	5	6	13	24	23
22 Stafford	25	2	1	7	16	20	3	5	7	19	36	21

EUROPEAN RESULTS



Romario, the Brazil forward, parades the blue and red strip of his new club, Flamingo, prior to his departure for Rio de Janeiro from Barcelona this weekend

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cremonese 0 Brescia 0; Fiorentina 1 AC Parma 1; Genoa 2 Padova 1; Inter Milan 2 Sampdoria 0; Juventus 3 AS Roma 0; Lazio 7 Foggia 1; Napoli 1 Cagliari 1; Reggiana 1 Torino 0.

First div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Juventus	15	11	3	1	28	13	36
Parma	16	9	5	2	27	14	32
Lazio	16	8	4	4	35	20	28
Fiorentina	16	7	6	3	31	21	27
Roma	16	7	6	3	21	11	27
Sampdoria	16	6	6	4	25	14	24
AC Milan	15	5	7	3	13	11	22
Bari	15	7	1	7	16	18	22
Inter	16	5	6	5	14	13	21
Foggia	16	5	6	5	19	23	21
Torino	15	5	4	6	13	16	19
Cagliari	16	4	7	5	13	18	19
Napoli	16	3	9	4	21	26	18
Cremonese	16	5	1	10	14	20	16
Genoa	16	4	4	8	19	26	16
Padova	16	4	2	10	16	36	14
Reggiana	16	3	3	10	12	21	12
Brescia	16	1	6	9	8	24	9

FRENCH CUP: First round: Montpellier 2 St Etienne 0; Vitrolles 0 Lens 1; Forbach 2 Bordeaux 4; Metz 2 Dunkerque 0; Martigues 1 Le Mans 0; Caen 1 Saint-Brieuc 3; Sete 0 Lille 2; Pau 1 Nice 2; Louhans-Cuiseaux 3 Strasbourg 4; La Roche-sur-Yon 0 Auxerre 2; Chateau-Thierry 0 Le Havre 2; Trelissac 0 Lyon 4; Vitre 0 Monaco 5; Sochaux 0 Marseille 0 (Marseille won 5-4 on pens); Dijon 0 Bastia 1.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Maastricht 1 Go Ahead Eagles 1; NAC Breda 0 W II Tilburg 0; RKC Waalwijk 1 Ajax 1. Positions: 1, Ajax, played 16, 27 points; 2, Roda JC, 16, 26; 3, Twente Enschede, 16, 23; 4, PSV Eindhoven, 16, 21; 5, Vitesse, 16, 20; 6, Feyenoord, 15, 19

PORTUGESE LEAGUE: Sporting Braga 0 Benfica 2; Tirsense 0 FC Porto 2.

First div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Porto	17	14	2	1	37	9	30
Sporting	16	12	4	0	30	10	28
Benfica	17	12	2	3	32	10	26
Tirsense	17	10	0	7	19	13	20
Guimaraes	16	8	4	4	23	20	20
Maritimo	16	8	3	5	21	18	19
Boavista	16	8	2	6	23	23	18
Uniao Leiria	16	7	3	6	20	22	17
Braga	17	6	4	7	17	22	16
Beira Mar	16	6	1	9	15	21	13
Farense	16	5	3	8	15	22	13
Belenenses	16	4	4	8	14	16	12
Chaves	16	4	4	8	15	28	12
Salgueiros	16	5	2	9	18	25	12
E Amadora	16	2	6	8	17	21	10
Gil Vicente	16	3	4	9	12	19	10
Uniao Madeira	16	2	5	9	13	30	9
Setubal	16	1	5	10	16	26	7

SPANISH LEAGUE: Deportivo 0 Real Madrid 0. Positions: 1, Real Madrid, played 17, 26 points; 2, Deportivo, 17, 23; 3, Zaragoza, 16, 23.

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Lierse 0 Lommel 0; Mechelen 1 Charleroi 3; Club Brugge 3 Molenbeek 1; Beveren 4 Ghent 0; Anderlecht 1 Cercle Brugge 1; Sint-Truiden 1 FC Liege 0.

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Middlesbro	26	9	1	2	23	9	5	5	4	17	15	48	40
2 Wolves	27	10	2	2	29	13	4	3	6	20	21	47	49
3 Bolton	27	9	3	1	23	8	3	5	6	16	21	44	39
4 Tranmere	27	10	2	1	31	13	2	5	7	9	17	43	40
5 Sheff Utd	27	8	4	2	24	11	3	5	5	19	18	42	43
6 Barnsley	26	9	3	2	24	12	3	2	7	8	19	41	32
7 Reading	27	5	6	3	15	11	6	2	5	16	15	41	31
8 Oldham	27	7	5	2	23	13	3	3	7	14	20	38	37
9 Watford	27	7	6	1	19	11	2	5	6	9	17	38	28
10 Grimsby	26	7	4	2	23	13	2	6	5	16	23	37	39
11 Luton	27	3	3	7	17	19	7	4	3	19	15	37	36
12 Millwall	27	6	5	2	22	14	3	5	6	12	18	37	34
13 Derby	26	5	5	2	15	9	4	4	6	15	18	36	30
14 Stoke	26	6	4	3	21	11	3	4	6	7	20	35	28
15 Southend	27	8	2	3	16	9	2	3	9	12	37	35	28
16 West Brom	27	8	2	2	14	8	1	5	9	11	25	34	25
17 Charlton	26	5	4	5	23	20	3	5	4	17	20	33	40
18 Sunderland	26	2	8	3	12	12	4	5	4	14	13	31	26
19 Portsmouth	27	4	5	5	16	17	3	4	6	12	21	30	28
20 Swindon	26	6	5	3	21	18	1	3	8	13	24	29	34
21 Port Vale	25	6	3	4	19	14	1	4	7	11	20	28	30
22 Burnley	24	3	5	3	17	15	3	4	6	9	19	27	26
23 Bristol C	27	4	4	5	12	16	2	2	10	8	20	24	20
24 Notts Co	26	4	4	6	16	17	1	2	9	9	19	21	25

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Birmingham	25	7	4	1	29	8	7	4	2	18	9	50	47
2 Huddersfld	26	9	2	2	24	13	4	6	3	22	19	47	46
3 Crewe	26	9	1	3	30	18	5	3	5	22	27	46	52
4 Oxford Utd	25	8	2	2	18	11	6	2	5	25	20	46	43
5 Brentford	25	8	1	4	24	9	6	2	4	22	14	45	46
6 Wycombe	24	7	4	1	18	9	6	2	4	17	18	45	35
7 Hull	26	8	2	3	26	13	4	4	5	16	23	42	42
8 Bristol R	23	8	5	0	32	14	3	4	3	9	7	42	41
9 Blackpool	26	8	1	4	25	18	4	2	7	16	26	39	41
10 Stockport	25	7	1	5	22	15	5	2	5	17	18	39	39
11 Bradford	26	5	3	5	16	17	6	3	4	19	19	39	35
12 York	25	7	2	3	22	12	4	3	6	14	13	38	36
13 Wrexham	23	7	3	2	26	14	3	4	4	16	18	37	42
14 Swansea	25	5	5	2	13	7	4	5	4	19	19	37	32
15 Rotherham	25	8	2	3	23	15	1	3	8	8	16	32	31
16 Peterboro	25	2	7	4	15	22	5	3	4	16	21	31	31
17 Brighton	25	5	5	2	13	8	2	4	7	13	25	30	26
18 Cambridge	25	5	4	3	22	18	1	4	8	12	25	26	34
19 Shrewsbury	25	5	3	4	19	15	2	2	9	12	19	26	31
20 Plymouth	25	3	2	6	12	24	3	2	7	11	24	22	23
21 Cardiff	26	2	4	8	13	18	3	2	7	14	22	21	27
22 Bournemth	26	3	3	7	14	24	1	3	8	9	26	18	23
23 L Orient	25	4	4	4	11	10	0	1	12	6	29	17	17
24 Chester	25	3	2	7	12	25	0	2	11	4	22	13	16

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Carlisle	23	9	3	0	22	5	8	2	1	22	10	56	44
2 Walsall	23	8	1	2	25	11	4	6	2	17	13	43	42
3 Chesterfield	24	7	4	2	14	6	5	2	4	19	20	42	33
4 Bury	22	7	5	1	18	8	5	1	3	14	8	42	32
5 Mansfield	25	6	2	5	26	17	6	2	4	25	20	40	51
6 Barnet	23	5	4	1	20	10	6	2	5	11	18	39	31
7 Torquay	24	7	5	1	24	16	3	2	6	10	15	37	34
8 Colchester	24	5	4	4	19	21	5	3	3	14	13	37	33
9 Doncaster	24	6	3	2	19	9	4	4	5	13	12	37	32
10 Preston	24	7	0	4	19	10	4	3	6	12	15	36	31
11 Scunthorpe	24	6	2	4	23	13	4	3	5	15	18	35	38
12 Fulham	25	4	4	4	18	14	4	6	3	12	16	34	30
13 Darlington	24	5	3	5	18	16	3	3	5	10	13	30	28
14 Rochdale	24	5	2	4	16	15	3	3	7	15	32	29	31
15 Lincoln	23	6	4	2	19	12	2	1	8	9	16	29	28
16 Hartlepool	23	5	2	6	16	20	1	4	5	6	14	24	22
17 Exeter	23	5	3	4	16	18	1	2	8	2	19	23	18
18 Wigan	22	3	2	5	16	16	3	2	7	15	22	22	31
19 Hereford	24	3	3	5	9	12	2	4	7	20	33	22	29
20 Northamptn	24	3	3	6	11	14	1	6	5	9	16	21	20
21 Gillingham	23	4	3	4	14	12	1	2	9	11	23	20	25
22 Scarboro	23	1	3	6	11	18	2	2	9	12	27	14	23

NON-LEAGUE AND REGIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

Premier division: Accrington Stanley 1 Hyde 0, Barrow 2 Bishop Auckland 1; Boston Utd 2 Whitley Bay 1, Chorley 0 Gainsborough 2, Colwyn Bay 2 Guiseley 4, Droylsden 0 Witton 2; Emley 2 Buxton 0, Horwich 0 Frickley 3; Knowsley 1 Morecambe 1, Matlock 0 Marine 0, Spennymoor 1 Winsford 1

Premier div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Marine	29	21	6	2	56	20	69
Morecambe	28	19	5	4	65	27	62
Guiseley	26	17	6	3	59	34	57
Witton	28	10	12	6	36	34	42
Boston Utd	25	11	7	7	40	26	40
Gainsboro	26	11	7	8	48	36	40
Spennymoor	26	11	6	9	39	34	39
B Auckland	26	11	5	10	43	32	38
Barrow	26	12	2	12	44	44	38
Hyde	23	10	6	7	39	32	36
Colwyn Bay	25	11	3	11	53	52	36
Buxton	28	9	6	13	36	42	33
Emley	26	8	8	10	37	42	32
Winsford	29	8	8	13	41	50	32
Knowsley	24	7	9	8	38	37	30
Acc Stanley	25	7	8	10	38	43	29
Chorley	27	8	5	14	41	57	29
Horwich	28	8	3	17	37	51	27
Frickley	24	5	8	11	30	42	23
Whitley Bay	28	5	7	16	33	59	22
Matlock	22	6	2	14	24	43	20
Droylsden	25	5	5	15	30	60	20

First division: Alfreton 4 Blyth Spartans 0, Atherton 2 Mossley 3, Bamber Bridge 4 Harrogate 1, Congleton 1 Great Harwood 1, Curzon Ashton 4 Workington 3, Farsley Celtic 4 Fleetwood 1, Goole 3 Warrington 1; Gretna 3 Eastwood 1, Lancaster 2 Caernarfon 2; Netherfield 4 Ashton 3, Radcliffe 2 Worksop 2.

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Burton 1 Crawley 0, Cambridge City 2 Halesowen 2, Chelmsford 2 Sittingbourne 1, Corby 2 Cheltenham 2, *Gloucester 3 Sudbury 0, Gravesend and* Northfit 2 Atherstone 1, Hastings 1 Leek 2, Solihull 2 Dorchester 4; Trowbridge 1 Hednesford 2; VS Rugby 2 Rushden and Diamonds 0, Worcester 0 Gresley 1

Premier div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hednesford	23	16	5	2	57	25	53
Cheltenham	22	13	5	4	50	23	44
Gloucester	22	12	4	6	46	34	40
Leek Town	23	11	7	5	43	35	40
Rushden	22	11	6	5	51	34	39
Dorchester	21	12	3	6	45	23	39
Gresley	22	11	4	7	43	39	37
Worcester	23	9	7	7	26	20	34
Burton	20	9	7	4	28	23	34
Halesowen	25	8	8	9	49	45	32
Cambridge C	21	8	5	8	25	28	29
Gravesend	21	8	5	8	22	28	29
Chelmsford	19	7	5	7	30	25	26
Sittingbne	23	6	6	11	23	36	24
Solihull	21	5	8	8	21	34	23
VS Rugby	23	5	7	11	24	29	22
Crawley Town	24	6	4	14	32	52	22
Hastings	19	5	6	8	23	27	21
Atherstone	24	4	9	11	24	37	21
Trowbridge	21	4	8	9	24	33	20
Sudbury Town	21	5	5	11	25	45	20
Corby Town	22	2	4	16	21	61	10

Midland division: Armitage 1 Newport AFC 3; Bedworth 2 Moor Green 4; Dudley 1 Bridgnorth 1, Forest Green 1 King's Lynn 1; Grantham 0 Evesham 4, Leicester 0 Bilston 3, Nuneaton 1 Ilkeston 1, RC Warwick 1 Tamworth 5, Redditch 1 Buckingham 3 Rothwell 2 Hinckley 0 Sutton Coldfield 0 Stourbridge 0 Southern division: Baldock 4 Weston-Super-Mare 1, Bury 0 Havant 4, Clevedon 0 Ashford 2 Fisher 93 2 Fareham 2; Salisbury 1 Burnham 0, Tonbridge AFC 4 Poole 3. Waterlooville 5 Margate 0; Wealdstone 1 Bashley 0; Weymouth 0 Erith and Belvedere 0 Witney 1 Braintree 0, Yate 1 Newport IOW 3

DIADORA

Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 1 Hendon 2; Bromley 4 Molesey 3; Dulwich 1 Chesham 0, Enfield 2 Carshalton 1; Hayes 1 Harrow 1, Hitchin 3 Purfleet 2, Slough 4 Marlow 0; Sutton United 1 Aylesbury 3; Walton and Hersham 1 Yeading 1; Wokingham 0 Kingstonian 1.

Premier div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hayes	22	13	7	2	38	19	46
Bromley	24	12	7	5	47	36	43
Slough	22	12	6	4	45	30	42
Enfield	22	11	7	4	48	27	40
Carshalton	25	12	4	9	44	43	40
Aylesbury	19	11	3	5	40	21	36
Dulwich	23	10	5	8	40	40	35
Harrow	24	10	4	10	38	38	34
St Albans	21	9	6	6	57	48	33
Molesey	22	9	4	9	37	34	31
Purfleet	22	8	6	8	42	44	30
Grays	24	7	9	8	33	36	30
Yeading	21	7	8	6	41	38	29
Hendon	24	7	7	10	32	37	28
Sutton Utd	24	6	6	12	34	39	24
Kingstonian	21	6	6	9	33	38	24
Chesham	22	6	5	11	36	40	23
Hitchin	21	5	8	8	31	39	23
Walton & H	19	5	7	7	34	36	22
B Stortford	22	5	7	10	29	48	22
Marlow	22	3	7	12	24	46	16
Wokingham	22	4	3	15	22	48	15

First division: Aldershot 2 Berkhamsted 0; Dorking 2 Uxbridge 6, Heybridge Swifts 3 Maidenhead 2; Ruislip Manor 2 Basingstoke 2; Staines 1 Newbury 3; Wembley 0 Billericay 4; Whyteleafe 1 Boreham Wood 2, Wivenhoe 2 Barking 1, Worthing 2 Tooting and Mitcham 2. Second division: Aveley 0 Hemel Hempstead 0; Bracknell 0 Chalfont St Peter 2; Hungerford 0 Thame 1; Leatherhead 3 Malden Vale 1, Saffron Walden 2 Barton 4, Tilbury 6 Cheshunt 0; Ware 2 Hampton 0, Witham 1 Edgware 1 Third division: Clapton 3 Cove 1 Collier Row 5 Lewes 1; East Thurrock 1 Horsham 3, Feltham and Hounslow B 1 Hornchurch 2; Harefield 1 Flackwell Heath 3, Kingsbury 1 Bedford 2; Leighton 2 Southall 1, Northwood 0 Camberley 1; Tring 6 Hertford 0.

FA VASE

Fourth round: Burscough 3 Brandon 0; Stocksbridge Park Steels 1 Eastwood Hanley 1, Pelsall Villa 1 Cammell Laird 2, Halstead 5 Hadleigh 5; West Midlands Police 0 Raunds 2; Ossett Albion 1 Diss 1; St Andrews 2 Maine Road 1, Belper Town 4 South Shields 0; Liskeard 0 Falmouth 2, *Stotfold 0 Basildon 4, Mangotsfield 1* Canvey Island 5, Barnstaple 0 Arlesey 2; Croydon 1 Oxford City 2; Taunton 2 Elmore 1, Eastleigh 1 Metropolitan Police 3.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 2 Denaby 2; Glasshoughton Welfare 1 Arnold 2, Hucknall 6 Pontefract Col 0; Lincoln 6 Brigg 4; Liversedge 2 Ashfield 2; Pickering 2 Hallam 0, Thackley 4 Ossett Town 1

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division. Calne 1 Crediton 2; Chippenham 2 Bridport 1; Saltash 3 Odd Down 0; Torrington 1 Westbury 8

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris 1 Newmarket 0. Cornard 0 Lowestoft 1. Great Yarmouth 0 Harwich and Parkeston 1, Haverhill 0 Wisbech 4; Histon 1 Felixstowe 2, Soham 0 Fakenham 0; Stowmarket 3 Watton 1, Woodbridge 1 Tiptree 0, Wroxham 4 Sudbury 0

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup 0 Darwen 5, Blackpool Rovers 2 Clitheroe 1; Holker Old Boys 3 Bootle 0; Rossendale 0 Trafford 2, Salford 4 Skelmersdale 1.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington 0 Tow Law 1; Billingham Synthonia 2 Whitby 3; Durham 0 Dunston FB 1; Eppleton CW 1 RTM Newcastle 3; Murton 1 Consett 7; Northallerton 0 Hebburn 3; Prudhoe 2 Ferryhill 2; Shildon 1 Peterlee 3; West Auckland 3 Seaham Red Star 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 2 Leyton Orient 0; Cambridge 2 Southend 3; Charlton 1 Norwich City 1; Chelsea 1 Millwall 1; Gillingham 1 West Ham 1; Portsmouth 1 Fulham 3; QPR 1 Ipswich 1; Watford 1 Tottenham 3. Second division: Bournemouth 4 Bristol 0; Crystal Palace 3 Southampton 1; Swindon 3 Colchester 1; Tottenham 0 Oxford 0; Wycombe 3 Reading 1. Postponed: Brighton v Luton; Bristol City v Wimbledon.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Danes 3 Tenisonians 5. C Manning 0 Hamptonians 2; Wilsonians 1 Chertsey 1. Senior first division: Latymer 2 Isleworthians 3; Tiffinians 7 Phoenix 3; Kingsburians 6 Shene 0 Postponed: Suttonians v Edmontonians. Senior second division: Vaughanians 2 Enfield 1; Camdenians 3 Southallians 2, Ignatians R 2 J Fisher 3; Tollingtonians 4 Mill Hill 1 Senior third division: Alpertonians 1 Latymer R 2; Leyton Chorleywood 1; Salvatorians 0 Glyn R 1; Grocers 1 Vaughanians 1, Hamptonians R 0 Greenfordians 2. Senior cup: Aloysians 0 Brentwoods 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Old Latymerians 4 Winchmore Hill 1; Midland Bank 0 Old Esthameians 2; Polytechnic 1 Old Parkonians 1; Lloyds Bank 4 Lensbury 0. Old Bromleians 0 New Association 3; Old Westminster Ctz. 6 Broomfield 2; Cuaco 1 Alleyn OB 0; Merton 0 Brentham 1; Southgate Olympic 0 Old Lyonians 0; Reigate Priory 1 Bank of England 3. Postponed: Alexandra Park v Old Stationers

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior first: *Mill Hill Village 1 Ulysses 3;* Parkfield 1 Nottsborough 3. Senior second: Albanian 2 Old Bealonians 1, Corinthian Casuals 2 Hadley 1; Uci Academicals 0 Hale End 0. Senior third: Birkbeck College 2 BBC 3. Brent 3 London Welsh 2, Fulham Compton OB 2 City of London 1, Old Woodhouseians 4 Westerns 3; Old Colfeians 2 Polygons 5. Senior fourth: Broadfields 1 Inland Revenue 1; Cardinal Pole 3 Economicals 0; Hampstead Heathens 2 London Airways 0; Old Simmarobians 2 Pegasus 1. Postponed: Centymca v Mayfield

AFA Senior Cup: Second round: Crouch End Vampires 2 O Manorians 1, East Barnet OG 2 O Meadonians 1. Replay: O Ignatians 3 O Salvatorians 0.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Reptonians 5 Aldenhamians 0: Wellingburians 1 Etonians 4.

Premier div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Chigwellians	6	6	0	0	18	3	12
Carthusians	9	5	2	2	21	8	12
Reptonians	7	4	3	0	15	6	11
Lancing	9	4	1	4	15	13	9
Aldenhamians	7	4	0	3	12	10	8
Etonians	8	1	4	3	13	14	6
Wellingburians	10	1	4	5	12	24	6
Malvernians	8	1	3	4	8	14	5
Brentwoods	6	0	1	5	3	16	1

ESSEX SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood 3 Eton Manor 0, East Ham 0 Burnham Ramblers 1, Ford 1 Stansted 1; Gt Wakering 3 Bowers 1; Maldon 3 Concord 0; Romford 4 Southend Manor 1 Cup: O Parmiterians 3 O Westhamians 0, O Monovians 2 O Highburians 3; O Chigwellians 6 Duncombe Sports 0; O Foresters 7 O Fairlopians 2.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 3 Shortwood 4: Fairford 1 Almondsbury 0; Highworth 2 Kintbury 6, Swindon Supermarine 2 Moreton 1; Tuffley 1 Brackley 1.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M 3 Chasetown 0; Brierley Hill 4 Barwell 3; Hinckley Athletic 1 Shepshed D 1; Pershore 0 Rushall O 3; Rocester 0 Halesowen Harr 2; Shifnal 0 West Midlands Police 0; Stapenhill 1 Knypersley Vic 6, Willenhall 2 Stratford 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: *First division:* AFC Lymington 2 Gosport 2; Aerostructures 5 Petersfield 2; Christchurch 1 AFC Totton 1; Downton 1 Wimborne 2, East Cowes Vics 1 Andover 3; Fleet 3 Cowes Sports 2; Swanage and Herston 0 Brockenhurst 1, Thatcham 1 Bournemouth 0.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: First division: Abbey National (Mk) 0 Clifton Old Boys 0; De Havilland 1 Mercedes Benz 0; Eaton Bray 2 Caddington 0; Kent 3 Cranfield 1. Postponed: Flamstead v Emberton.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash 2 Cranleigh 0; Bedfont 0 Westfield 1; Chipstead 0 DCA Basingstoke 0; Cobham A 4 Sandhurst 1; Godalming and Guildford 2 Ashford 1; Hartley Wintney 1 Eton Wick 4, Merstham 1 Farnham 1; Viking Sports 5 Netherne 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel 0 Langney Sports 0; East Grinstead 1 Ringmer 5; Eastbourne 2 Three Bridges 3; Southwick 2 Newhaven 1.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham 3 Darenth Heathside 0; *Dartford 0 Thamesmead 1; Faversham 4* Crockenhill 2; Greenwich 2 Cray 2; Herne Bay 0 Beckenham 0; Kent Police 0 Tunbridge Wells 2.

REGIONAL

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 1 Inter Cardiff 1; Bangor City 6 Flint Town 3, Caersws 0 Afan Lido 1; Holywell 3 Rhyl 3; Llanelli 2 Cwmbran 3; Llansantffraid 4 Connah's Quay 3; Maesteg Park 2 Barry 1; Mold 0 Conwy 2; Newtown 3 Porthmadog 1; Ton Pentre 3 Ebbw Vale 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bangor C	21	17	2	2	59	15	53
Cwmbran	22	13	1	8	37	30	40
Newtown	21	11	6	4	50	27	39
Ton Pentre	19	12	3	4	44	24	39
I Cardiff	21	10	7	4	38	22	37
Llansan'aid	22	11	3	8	42	34	36
Afan Lido	18	10	4	4	28	23	34
Flint Town	21	10	2	9	43	37	32
Rhyl	22	9	4	9	43	39	31
Holywell	20	8	6	6	37	33	30
Conwy	22	8	5	9	33	37	29
Barry Town	20	7	7	6	37	34	28
Caersws	22	8	4	10	37	38	28
Connah's Q	21	7	6	8	31	32	27
Ebbw Vale	21	8	3	10	30	31	27
Mold	23	8	2	13	38	52	26
Porthmadog	21	7	4	10	36	35	25
Llanelli	23	3	3	17	38	81	12
Aberystwyth	20	1	8	11	25	45	11
Maesteg P	22	1	4	17	14	71	7

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballyclare 0 Distillery 4; Ballymena 3 Glentoran 3; Carrick 2 Coleraine 2; Crusaders 4 Newry 0; Glenavon 2 Bangor 2; Larne 0 Linfield 4, Omagh 1 Ards 3; Portadown 3 Cliftonville 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Crusaders	19	15	3	1	41	15	48
Glenavon	18	9	5	4	39	23	32
Portadown	19	10	2	7	41	27	32
Linfield	19	9	4	6	36	21	31
Ards	19	9	3	7	36	31	30
Distillery	19	8	5	6	34	29	29
Cliftville	18	8	5	5	24	20	29
Coleraine	19	6	10	3	32	26	28
Glentoran	19	7	6	6	32	29	27
Carrick	19	6	6	7	36	43	24
Bangor	19	5	8	6	27	25	23
Omagh Town	18	5	8	5	23	21	23
Ballymena	18	5	5	8	28	34	20
Ballyclare	19	4	3	12	21	41	15
Newry	17	1	5	11	16	43	8
Larne	19	2	2	15	11	49	8

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
3	1½	3	1½	2	1½	2	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	1½	3	2	1½	2	2	1½	2	1½	2	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	3

30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
2	1½	3	2	2	2½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½	1½	2½	1½	1½	1½	3	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	2	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½

FORECAST: Telephone claims for 22½ and 23pts. Dividend forecast is very good: 6 jackpot draws, 4 score draws, 11 no-score draws and one void game.

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Rangers	22	7	2	1	17	5	7	3	2	24	13	47	+23
2 Hibernian	21	6	5	0	25	10	1	7	2	4	7	33	+12
3 Motherwell	21	4	5	3	19	17	4	4	1	15	11	33	+6
4 Celtic	22	4	6	2	14	12	2	7	1	10	8	31	+4
5 Hearts	21	6	2	2	16	6	2	2	7	12	24	28	-2
6 Aberdeen	22	4	6	2	18	12	1	3	6	7	13	24	0
7 Falkirk	21	3	3	4	13	16	2	6	3	14	16	24	-5
8 Dundee Utd	21	3	5	2	13	12	2	2	7	9	23	22	-13
9 Kilmarnock	21	3	3	3	9	8	1	5	6	13	22	20	-8
10 Partick	20	2	4	4	13	15	1	2	7	5	20	15	-17

FIRST DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Dundee	22	8	3	1	24	9	5	2	3	15	14	44	+16
2 Airdrie	22	5	5	1	15	4	6	2	3	18	15	40	+14
3 Dunfermline	22	7	1	2	22	5	3	7	2	18	16	38	+18
4 Raith	22	6	5	1	22	14	4	3	3	12	8	38	+12
5 St Johnstn	22	5	4	1	19	9	3	5	4	15	18	33	+7
6 Hamilton	22	6	2	3	17	14	2	4	5	6	15	30	-6
7 Clydebank	22	3	3	5	14	13	1	5	5	6	14	20	-7
8 St Mirren	22	3	4	4	11	12	0	6	5	7	18	19	-12
9 Stranraer	22	3	4	3	9	8	1	0	11	8	30	16	-21
10 Ayr	22	3	5	4	16	19	0	2	8	2	21	16	-22

SECOND DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Stenhsmuir	20	5	6	0	14	6	4	3	2	12	11	36	+9
2 Berwick	20	8	2	0	15	6	2	2	6	18	24	34	+3
3 G Morton	19	6	3	1	18	7	3	2	4	8	11	32	+8
4 East Fife	20	6	1	3	24	14	3	3	4	7	15	31	+2
5 Stirling	19	5	1	4	16	10	4	1	4	11	13	29	+4
6 Dumbarton	19	6	1	2	19	7	2	3	5	8	14	28	+6
7 Clyde	19	3	4	2	16	11	4	2	4	12	12	27	+5
8 Queen of S	20	3	2	5	14	14	2	4	4	7	13	21	-6
9 Meadowbnk	20	3	2	4	9	8	3	2	6	15	19	19	-3
10 Brechin	20	2	1	7	11	19	1	1	8	4	24	11	-28

Meadowbank deducted 3 points

THIRD DIVISION

		HOME					AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Forfar	19	8	2	0	20	7	4	0	5	8	12	38	+9
2 Montrose	18	6	1	3	19	10	4	3	1	13	7	34	+15
3 Ross Co	20	5	1	4	20	17	5	3	2	13	7	34	+9
4 E Stirling	18	5	1	3	17	11	5	2	2	19	13	33	+12
5 Alloa	19	3	3	3	11	11	6	3	1	20	11	33	+9
6 Cowdenbth	20	3	4	3	15	15	6	1	3	18	11	32	+7
7 Caley This	19	3	4	2	16	17	4	2	4	13	14	27	-2
8 Queen's Pk	20	2	2	6	9	18	2	2	6	13	19	18	-15
9 Arbroath	19	0	2	7	2	13	3	1	6	17	24	12	-18
10 Albion	20	1	0	9	8	22	1	3	6	7	19	9	-26

Frenchman's unprecedented double overshadows Tomba's sixth successive victory

Alphand rewrites Hahnenkamm history

David Powell reports from Kitzbühel on a World Cup weekend of records and high drama

You need more than courage, strength, and a cool head to be the complete champion of the hardest ski race of all. Only with a feeling of indestructibility can the winner of the life-threatening Hahnenkamm downhill expect to emerge unscathed from celebrations at The Londoner pub in the centre of town, where tradition demands his presence on the night of his victory. "It was like walking into the mouth of a dragon," Steve Podborski, twice a Hahnenkamm winner, recalled of his visits to the place where glasses fly through the air and customers dance on tables.

It must have been comforting, therefore, for Luc Alphand, his place in history assured after winning two downhills on the Hahnenkamm in one day, to hear the words shouted to him by Jean-Luc Cretier, a teammate, at the bottom of the course. "Don't worry, tonight I will make sure you get back," Cretier said. Alphand smiled, though not a convincing smile.

Hardly had it seemed possible before the weekend that the appearance yesterday of Alberto Tomba, the sport's dominant personality, who was bringing to Kitzbühel a sequence of five successive slalom wins, would come as something of an anti-climax. This was ironic given that skiing's most popular downhill event was compromised after weather interruptions to ensure that the Italian's race went ahead as scheduled.

Never before had two World Cup downhills been held in one day. Kitzbühel had taken on the postponed St Anton downhill and scheduled it for Friday on the notorious Streif run, but heavy snow delayed the race again and, rather than try to clear the length of the course on Saturday and hold a full-length downhill yesterday, the organisers chose to stage two shortened races on Saturday and keep the stage free for Tomba yesterday. Tomba did not disappoint, extending to six his record sequence of slalom wins from the start of a season.

Tomba won by almost a second from Jure Kosir, of Slovenia, and maintained his season-long line on retirement: that he would decide in March, by which time, perhaps, he will have his first world title and his first overall World Cup. Although he competed in only the slalom here — he fears the downhill — he extended his World Cup lead from 400 to 420 points.

Although the remaining races are mainly speed events in which Tomba does not compete, he is surely too far ahead to be caught. Kosir is second and might be wishing for Tomba to retire. The Italian yesterday nominated the Slovenian as his successor.

If, for expediency one year, the Wimbledon men's final was reduced to three sets the public would still want to be there and so it was with Kitzbühel's downhill, Austria's favourite sporting event. As much for the carnival as the sport, tens of thousands of people were drawn to this Thirteenth Century town of 12,500 inhabitants in Tirol, where the houses are painted in bright colours.

The dawn chorus was provided by the random ringing of cowbells by the early arrivals. Just inside the entrance to the course, six men, well into adulthood, slow-marched in formation, each carrying a cowbell the size of a bucket. Their synchronised ringing drowned conversation as they went. Then Tuttnskiklub Mittersill arrived, 13 people of varying ages dedicated to the history of skiing. These characters brought skiing through the ages to life, with their wooden skis and clothing from the pre-Jean-Claude Killy era.

While they queued in their hundreds for the cable car to the improvised start at the Steilhang, others were drawn to the bakery, where the window display was on a Hahnenkamm theme, to the betting caravan, where an Alphand double would make you 80 schillings to one, or to the temporary street bar near Kitzbühel Ski Club, where customers listened to the Hahnenkamm theme music, "The Streif is Life".

Tickets for the race, 150 schillings (about £9) a time, were selling like *glühwein* but business was slow at the Red Devil ski school. "This is always the quietest day of the season for us," the woman at the kiosk said. "The people here are here only for the race." A ski-school teacher, arriving to find no work, was dispatched to help with final course preparations. For two weeks beforehand, nobody is allowed on the Streif and trespassers face a 5,000 schilling fine or three weeks in prison. Once the race is over, accomplished amateurs teem onto the Streif, taking their chance against the mountain.

This is where two Canadians, Brian Stemmle and Todd Brooker, were deposited at death's door, only the skill of doctors saving their lives after spills. So intimidating can it be, standing in the start hut with Kitzbühel 860 metres below, unable to see the run as it drops away, preparing to travel at up to 90 miles per hour, that the racer is at war with his nerves. At the bottom, helicopters wait to rush the seriously injured to hospital. Urs Raber, the 1984 World Cup downhill champion, lost the war, stepping onto the start gate, stepping back out, and walking away from the sport.

Praise, then, to Pietro Vitalini, an Italian, who, having crashed spectacularly in the morning race, hitting the safety net and somersaulting beyond a line of spectators, got up unhurt and was back for the afternoon race, finishing fifth. At the top of the cable car ride is a restaurant in which the middle and late order competitors can watch the early runners on television. Martin Bell, the British skier, is not keen on watching before he races because a bad crash can disturb the mind. He decided to watch just one. It was Vitalini. "Don't you just hate it when that happens," Bell said.

Tommy Moe, the Olympic champion, followed Vitalini on the second run and was glowing with enthusiasm, though he finished only eighth. "This is the Super Bowl of skiing," Moe said. "It's so exciting, you can hear the people cheering the whole way down." Now Alphand was waiting his turn. He had, he confessed, found it difficult to concentrate after his morning victory.

Alphand's first World Cup race win, after eight years of trying, was also the first by a Frenchman in the Kitzbühel downhill since Killy in 1967. Yet he had to contain his feelings. "It was like I did not win the first race because I could not let out my feelings," Alphand said. "I wanted to talk to the journalists about it but my trainer told me I had to concentrate on the second race. It was very difficult."

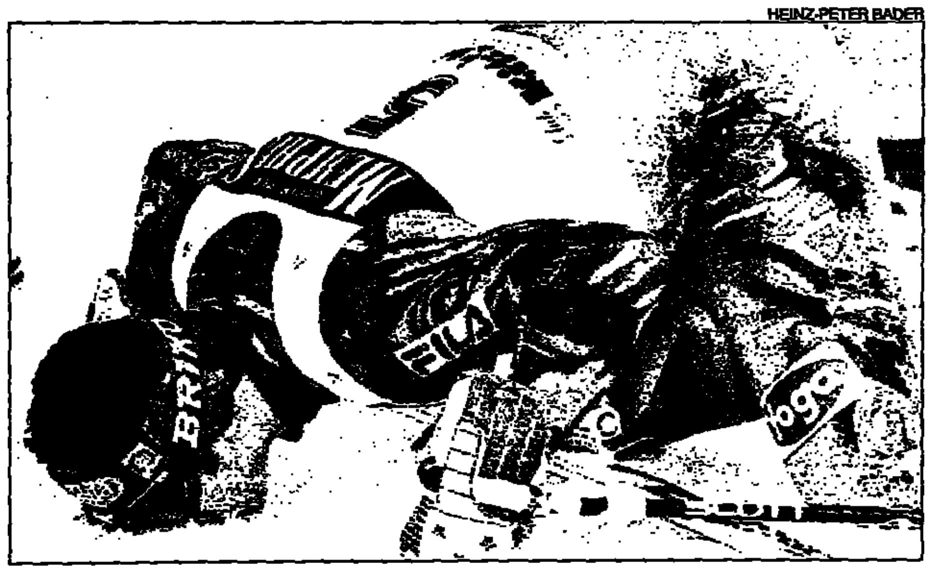
Ski racing has lost its place in the hearts of the French people. In Lillehammer last year, France failed to win a medal at the Winter Olympics and barely 1,000 spectators watched the World Cup downhill in Val d'Isère this winter. Only homes with Eurosport would have seen Alphand's victory live on television in France.

France could certainly make use of Alphand's marketability. Aged 29, he is something of a comedian, speaks four languages, and has a degree in maths and science. His degree came from Albertville but he missed the 1992 Winter Olympics there with a groin injury which, as he put it, left him "walking sideways for a year". Now he is less aggressive on skis and, after numerous injuries, he is shedding his reputation for crashing.

"After the Austrians had three in the first four in Val d'Isère, we came to have the French championships here," Cretier said. At least Alphand's skis were Austrian. He was supposed to have been back yesterday to contest the slalom but, having departed The Londoner at 2.30am, decided to scratch. Cretier raced but finished last. A night on the tiles in Kitzbühel is no preparation for a morning on skis.

Alphand on the way to becoming the first Frenchman to win a Kitzbühel downhill since Jean-Claude Killy in 1967. Photograph: Armando Trovati

HEINZ-PETER BADER



Tomba kisses the Kitzbühel snow after extending his winning run to six races

Ertl takes chance as leaders crash out

By Our Sports Staff

MARTINA ERTL, of Germany, secured only the second Alpine skiing World Cup victory of her career yesterday after a dramatic finish to the fourth women's slalom event of the season, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The double Olympic slalom champion, Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, who led after the first leg, and Pernilla Wiberg, the Swede who was second, crashed out after missing gates on the final run. Ertl, who was third after the first run, claimed victory with an aggregate time of 1min 22.54sec. Deborah Compagnoni, of Italy, was second in 1:22.67, with Gabriela Zingre-Graf, of Switzerland, third in 1:22.83.

Schneider, 30, seeking the 54th World Cup triumph of her career, had given another master-class in slalom skiing in the first leg to lead Wiberg by 0.03sec and Ertl by 0.21sec. She had been smooth and relaxed on the hard-packed surface, but the veteran's hopes vanished in a spray of snow when she attacked the course too aggressively and missed a gate at the top of the second run. "I don't know exactly what happened," Schneider said. "It happened so quickly."

The mistake cost Schneider the chance of taking over from her compatriot, Heidi Zeller-Baehler, at the top of the overall World Cup rankings. Her rival, Katja Seizinger, of Germany, also failed to threaten the leader after missing a gate in the first leg, but Ertl, 21, was able to stand on top of a World Cup podium for the first time since she won a giant slalom in the American resort of Vail last year.

"I made a mistake in the upper part of the run and did not believe I could do it," Ertl said. "I had the luck. The others didn't."

The result gave Germany their first victory in a women's World Cup slalom since 1987, when Christa Kinshofer-Guetlein won in the Italian resort of Piancavallo. It completed a weekend of surprises after Florence Masnada, of France, won her first race on the circuit in the super-giant slalom on Saturday, the first time the racers had returned to the German piste where the former world champion, Ulrike Maier, died in a crash last year. The competitors obeved a minute's silence in tribute to Maier before racing.

Astrid Loedemel pays silent tribute to Maier

Taunton again roll toward twin towers

Taunton Town 2
Elmore 1

By Walter Gammie

TAUNTON Town, last season's losing FA Vase finalists, brought a return to Wembley a step closer by winning an exciting fourth-round tie against Elmore, a fellow Great Mills League side, before 964 enthusiastic supporters at Wordsworth Drive on Saturday.

Elmore were handicapped by the gagging of Eamonn Collins, their player-manager, whose reaction to being sent off earlier in the season had brought down the full weight of the FA disciplinary beaks. He was, unusually, banned from contact with his team before and during the match.

Collins, an agitated figure in the stand in the first half, was nowhere to be seen in the second and resurfaced only in the bar. My attempt to to solicit his views was intercepted by Andy Wharton, his assistant. "He's a fiery character," Wharton explained, as he denied his boss the chance to talk himself into further trouble.

Collins has recruited a clutch of former Torquay United players and some talented youngsters and made Elmore the league's "best footballing side", according to the Taunton manager, Russell Musker.

"Our job was to stop them playing," Musker said. Taunton stifled Elmore in the first half and collected a goal when Phil Lloyd sliced into his own net. Two minutes into the second half, Derek Fowler made a header count, nearly stumbling in excitement at being unmarked at a corner.

Gareth Morgan turned in a goal for Elmore in the 53rd minute and, galloping breaks aside, Taunton then defended against increasing pressure in splendid backs-to-the-wall cup-tie fashion.

TAUNTON TOWN (3-5-2): K Maloy — D Ewens, K Graddon, G Taylor — W Morris, D Fowler, D Palfrey, A Crook, N Jarvis — P West, A Perrett.

ELMORE (3-5-2): M Coombe — S Kidd, A Wharton (sub: D Edwards, 72min), P Lloyd — B Rowe, S Pugh, M Antonelli, S Joyce, S Powell — G Morgan, M Loram

Referee: M Pierce.

Oliver Holt risks health and happiness in the North Stand at Stamford Bridge

Gloom with a view in the company of morons

The only obvious non-Chelsea supporter in the lower tier of the new North Stand at Stamford Bridge had been punched, abused and spat at, and then escorted from the ground midway through the first half. So when Sheffield Wednesday equalised in the fifth minute of injury time at the end of the game on Saturday, it seemed wise not to laugh hysterically but to offer a silent prayer of thanks instead.

By that stage, I was no longer in my seat in row Z of the stand, which was opened earlier this season. Seats were not designed for the man mountain of a supporter who was sitting next to me and sharing half my seat as well, and after half an hour his constant exhortations to his comrades to "sing up" were becoming wearing.

Worse than that, a large proportion of the Chelsea supporters all around me insisted on shouting "aaaaaagh" at the top of their voices throughout the game, particularly when the action slowed in the second half. It is commonplace for all football supporters to do this after the opposing goalkeeper has taken a goal kick, to express their contempt for his effort, but in this corner of West London its use is apparently considered witty, even during open play.

The pleasure of watching a football match has always been in the distillation of several disparate elements: the atmosphere, who is standing or sitting near you, the performances of your team and of individual players. It is not enough if your team plays well and the atmosphere is flat, and vice versa.

At Stamford Bridge on Saturday, the paucity of the play, the comparative lack of noise and the moronic qualities of some of the supporters combined to make it an afternoon of drudgery, something to be endured rather than enjoyed. It also confirmed my doubts about the wisdom of transferring the denizens of the terraces, in this case The Shed, into seats.

The joy of standing at football was not only in the sense of oneness, the abandonment in being part of a mass, but also in the freedom of movement it afforded. When you sit, you are stuck with those around you. Things that were funny, when you knew you could have a break from them, pall when you are trapped in one place.

Displaced terrace-dwellers spend most of the afternoon standing anyway, rising automatically from their seats at a moment of excitement, forcing you to rise, too. The first ten minutes are spent leaping up and down, allowing late-comers to pass, cursing them under your breath, and it seems no time at all until the same people are filing past again five minutes before half-time.

At least in the North Stand, the facilities they are heading for are first-class, an age away from the primitive conditions that used to exist at league grounds. The toilets are spacious and relatively clean, and there are well-staffed fast-food bars. Each outlet is flanked by two television screens, beneath which the supporters gather to get the half-time and full-time scores.

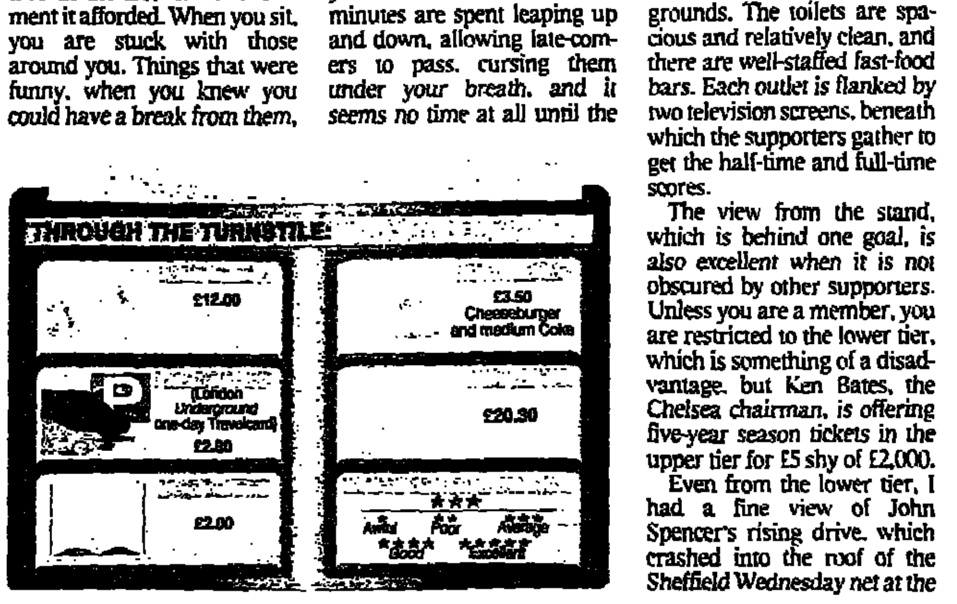
The view from the stand, which is behind one goal, is also excellent when it is not obscured by other supporters. Unless you are a member, you are restricted to the lower tier, which is something of a disadvantage, but Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, is offering five-year season tickets in the upper tier for £5 shy of £2,000.

Even from the lower tier, I had a fine view of John Spencer's rising drive, which crashed into the roof of the Sheffield Wednesday net at the other end of the ground for the Chelsea goal. Spencer, in general, was the best player on view, although Chris Waddle contributed some artful, flighted passes with the outside of his left boot.

I was standing right by the exit, fighting the urge to dash for the Underground before the rush, when Ian Nolan equalised for Wednesday. I was glad I had stayed.

I looked round to try to catch a glimpse of the man who had been screaming in my ear for most of the game, but was caught up in the surge of angry supporters pushing me down the stairs, screaming "cheat" at the referee as they went.

Behind me, one man who looked particularly disturbed by his team's misfortune was pounding the concrete wall with the flat of his hand. He watched the television screen and yelled obscenities at it when the Chelsea result came up. Suddenly, the afternoon took on a rosier hue.



FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

LUTON: Inter-counties cross-country championships: Men (11.6km): 1, S Duval (Staffs) 35min 52sec. 2, R Findlow (Yorks) 35 53. 3, J Hobbs (S Glamorgan) 36 04. Teams: 1, Northern Ireland 217pts. 2, Yorkshire 223. 3, Leicestershire and Rutland 257. *Women* (5.6km): 1, L Elliott (Herts) 19 13; 2, A Hulley (Yorks) 19:22; 3, N Lynch (Oxon) 19.25. Teams: 1, Middlesex 209. 2, Yorkshire 215; 3, Hampshire 314.

PERIVALE: Inter-club cross-country (9km): 1, J Hermes (Shaftesbury B) 31min 21sec. Team: 1 Ealing Southall and Middlesex 15pts.

HANOI: Marathon: 1, P Kayo (Ken) 2hr 22min 22sec; 2, H Jones (GB) 2 22 33. 3, M Kokorev (Russ) 2 23.29.

AMOREBIETA, Spain: World challenge series cross-country: Men: 1, P Guerra (Por) 31min 22sec. 2, I Kiru (Ken) 31.33. Leading standings: 1, Kiru 72pts. 2, Kanula 57. 3, P Guerra 47.

BADMINTON

TAIPEI: Championship tournament: Men: Semi-finals: *L Kwang-jin (S Kor) bt T Stuer-Laundsen (Den) 15-12, 15-12.* H Susanto (Indo) bt R Sidek (Malaysia) 15-8, 15-13. Final: Susanto bt Kwang-jin 15-2, 18-13. Women: Semi-finals: L Xiaoqing (Swe) bt S Jaroensin (Thai) 11-6, 11-0; J Santoso (Indo) bt L Djaelawijaya (Indo) 11-6, 11-6. Final: Xiaoqing bt Santoso 11-1, 11-5.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCATION (NBA): New Jersey 93 Minnesota 84. Indiana 95 Milwaukee 97. New York 81 Utah 86. Charlotte 96 Chicago 85. Orlando 91 Philadelphia 70. Dallas 77 Miami 84. Denver 118 Houston 104. Golden State 97 Cleveland 103. LA Clippers 108 Phoenix 134.

ENGLISH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION: *Men's national trophy: Quarter-finals:* Mid-Sussex 95 Plymouth 104. Slough 60 Nottingham 81. Women's national cup: Quarter-finals: Ipswich 65 Northampton 73: Spelthorne 63 Thames Valley 79. Women's national trophy: Quarter-final: Doncaster 77 Shropshire 60.

7-UP TROPHY: Final: Sheffield 70 (Gayle 23, Huggins 13, Vourlous 10) Thames Valley 74 (Scantlebury 21, Bucknall 15, Holley 14).

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunderland 85 (Hopper 20, Saunders 17, Pusic 14) Thames Valley 113 (Hayles 22, Cooke 20, Robb 15). Hemel 82 (Koochol 22, Ayinla 20, Howard/Keenan 10) Doncaster 84 (Joseph 19, Jones 16, Fife 9); Manchester 84 (Johnson 32, Robinson 20, Gordon 14) Worthing 88 (Irish 27, Hamed 18, Cunningham 17). Derby 111 (Siemon 39, Gardiner 27, Belka 18) Birmingham 104 (Samuels 32, Dorsey 20, Simms 19).

BOWLS

DENNY CUP: Sixth round: Bristol 66 Teignbridge 68. Avon Valley 71 North Walsham 73. Croydon 88 Preston 76. Hartlepool 79 Blackpool Borough 82. Rushden 80 Ipswich 72; Bentham 76 Torbay 87. Stanley 86 Sleaford 66: Cyphers 86 Folkestone 78.

BOXING

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey: International Boxing Council super middleweight championship: Vincent Pazienza (US, holder) bt Roberto Duran (US) pts. International Boxing Council welterweight championship: Hector Camacho (US) bt Todd Foster (US) rsc 5th.

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Curzon cup: 1, J Badrutt (Cz) 250.35; 2, N Barocchi (Cz) 250 85; 3, C Bertschinger (Cz) 251 00. Silver chip: 1, Lord Dalmeny (GB) 124 19.

CRICKET

HAMILTON, New Zealand: One-day match: West Indies 273 for 3 (S Williams 121, S Campbell 108). Sir Ron Brierley XI *232 for 6 (N Astle 59). West Indies bt Sir Ron* Brierley XI by 41 runs.

PORT OF SPAIN: First Test, third day: England Under-19 317 and 152 for 2 (M Trescothick 89 not out, V Solanki 35 not out); West Indies Youth 168 (A Percival 33, A Flintoff 5-39).

RED STRIPE CUP (second day of four) Kingston: Jamaica 383 (W Lewis 111, L Williams 64). Trinidad and Tobago 167 for *3. St John's, Antigua: Leeward Islands 310* (R B Richardson 104, D Joseph 77, B Brown 6-81). Guyana 136 and 50 for 1. Kingstown, St Vincent: Barbados 440 for 5 dec (D L Haynes 201 not out). Windward Islands 91 for 2.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day of four) Perth. Tasmania 236 (C Miller 37: B Julian 5-63). Western Australia 298 (M Veletta 71).

CASTLE CUP (third day of four) Port Elizabeth: Western Province 326 for 5 (S Koenig 149 not out, J Kallis 77): Eastern Province. East London: Transvaal 379 for 8 dec; Border 116 for 3. Durban: Natal 450 for 8 dec, Boland 127 for 4 (S Nackerdien 69).

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: BCCA National veterans' championship (Bramcote Park, Nottingham, 10.6 miles) 1, L Lloyd (Didcot Phoenix). 57min 01sec. 2, R Hunt (Bolton Mountain Bikes), at 51sec; 3, A Russell (Keighley Velo), at 1 52. BCCA National schools' championship *(Bramcote Park,* Nottingham, 6 miles) 1, R Taylor (Beeston RC). 32 18. Milton Keynes CC (National Bowl, 14 miles) 1, S Knight (Halesowen A and CC). 58:30. 2, R Tranter (Wrekinsport CC), at 2 08; 3, A Siers (Royal Sutton CC), at 3:00. North Hampshire RC (Basingstoke, 12 miles). 1, J Norfolk (VC St Raphael). 1:01 30; 2, C Thompson (Octagon VC), at 3 16; 3, A Gunner (Team Specialized), at 3 36. East Grinstead CC (Groombridge, *East Sussex, 12 miles) 1, G* Foord (Scott International), 1.14 06. 2, S Blunt (Wembley RC), at 4:08. 3, I Taylor (Redhill CC), at 4:24. Ogmore Valley Wheelers (Margam, Port Talbot, 10 miles): 1, A Baum (Swansea CC), 57 30. Avon and Somerset Police CC (Woodhouse, Bristol, 10 miles) 1, J Richardson (Team Bike), 50 10.

DIVING

SYDNEY: International tournament: Men: Platform final: 1, D Sautin (Russ) 667 68pts; 2, V Timoshinin (Russ) 582.92; 3, Li Chengwei (China) 544.14. Women: 3m springboard final: 1, Y Pakhalina (Russ) 543.87; 2, Y Lan (China) 511.38, 3, C Mellan (China) 490.53.

GLIDING

OMARAMA, New Zealand: World championships: Provisional: Open: 1, G Harrison (ASH25, NZ) 105.83kph, 1,000pts. Overall: 1, U Schwenk (ASW227, Ger) 5,818pts; 2, R Schroeder (ASW22B, Ger) 5,815; 3, R Lynskey (Nimbus 4, NZ) 5,551. 15 metre: 1, N McPhee (Ventus A, NZ) 110.9kph, 1,000pts; 11, J Wills (LS8, GB) 98.32, 802. Overall: 1, S Ghiorzio (Ventus 2, It) 6,557pts. 2, E Napoleon (Ventus 2, Fr) 5,415. 3, Wills 5,389. Standard: 1, H Karow (Discus, Ger) 112.56kph, 933pts; 9, A Davis (Discus, GB) 104.53, 825. 10, B Spreckley (LS8, GB) 102.4, 796. Overall: 1, M Kultonen (Discus, Fin) 5,487pts; 2, Davis 5,329, 3, J Aboulin, (Discus, Fr) 5,279; 5, Spreckley 5,137.

GOLF

DURBAN: Men's tournament: Third round scores (SA unless stated): 270: R Whittaker (US) 68, 64, 68, 70. 276: J McHenry (GB) 69, 70 71, 66. A Johnstone (Zimb) 68, 68, 69, 71. 277: W Westner 70, 68, 69, 70 278: J Bland 68, 71, 67, 72; M Mackenzie (GB) 71, 63, 72, 72. M McNulty (Zimb) 69, 74, 65, 70, W Schulte 69, 68, 68, 73. 279: D Gilford (GB) 70, 72, 72, 65. 280: S van Vuuren 69, 74, 68, 69. D Schreyer (US) 71, 69, 68, 72. 281: K Coody (US) 69, 70, 74, 68. 282: M Green 68, 73, 70, 71. R Kaplan 72, 67, 71, 72: G Reid 75, 64, 73, 70.

HONOLULU: Men's tournament: 201: J Morse 71, 65, 65. 203: C Beck 71, 66, 66. 204: D Waldorf 68, 65, 71. 205: T Lehman 68, 70, 67; M Brooks 68, 69, 68; D Pohl 69, 67, 69. 206: G Waite (NZ) 71, 69, 66. R Gamez 72, 67, 67. 207: C Dennis 68, 68, 71. 208: D Duval 71, 73, 64; D Ishii 71, 69, 68. B Glasson 70, 70, 68; P Azinger 72, 67, 69: D Barr (Can) 69, 70, 69. 209: J Huston 72, 68, 69; K Fergus 67, 72, 70. 210: P Burke 74, 70, 66. J Kaye 73, 69, 68, S Jones 66, 73. *69, J McGovern 69, 70, 71.*

ORLANDO: Women's tournament: Third round scores (US unless stated): 212: D Coe-Jones (Can) 74, 70, 68. 215: L Neumann (Swe) 73, 71, 71. 216: B King 71, 74, 71. B Daniel 69, 73, 74. 217: M Nause 73, 75, 69: H Alfredsson (Swe) 74, 73, 70. L Davies (GB) 72, 74, 71. 218: B Burton 75, 71, 72. B Mucha 68, 75, 75. 219: M Mallon 75, 71, 73; T Green 71, 75, 73; L Walters (Can) 73, 72, 74. 220: P Bradley 79, 71, 70; *V Skinner 74, 72, 74, N Lopez 74, 72, 74, D* Mochrie 72, 73, 75. 221: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp) 75, 75, 71; M McGeorge 74, 74, 73. 222: K Robbins 74, 77, 71, H Kobayashi (Japan) 74, 74, 74. Selected score: 230: T Johnson (GB) 76, 80, 74.

HOCKEY

MEN: HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: *Fourth round:* Beeston 1 Hampstead and Westminster 2; Bournville 0 Southgate 3. Bridgnorth 1 Spencer 2. Cannock 5 Timperley 0; Portsmouth 0 Neston 3. E Grinstead 0 Havant 2; Firebrands 2 Canterbury 1. Formby 3 Slough 2; Isca 3 Brooklands 1; Nottingham 1 Guildford 4; O Loughtonians 0 Stourport 1; Oxford H 1 Barford T 2. Reading 1 Hounslow 0. Richmond 3 Redbridge and Ilford 0; Teddington 3 St Albans 1; Warwick 3 Trojans 2.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford 2 Old Whitgiftians 1, City of Portsmouth 6 Staines 0; Dulwich 0 Old Kingstonians 2; Lewes 2 Fareham 0; Lyons 1 Chichester 0; Maidenhead 2 Anchorians 2; Old Walcountians 1 Woking 1; O Kingstonians 1 O Walcountians 2; Oxford Hawks 1 Gore Court 2, Wimbledon 0 High Wycombe 1. Winchester 1 Spencer 3. *Hampshire/Surrey:* Barnes 4 Epsom 1, Bournemouth 2 Oxshott 0; Camberley 0 Purley 4: Cheam 0 Southampton Tautonians 2: Lensbury 1 O, Mid Whitgiftians 8: London University 3 Fleet 0; O Edwardians 2 Weybridge H 0; Oxted 1 Basingstoke 2; Petersfield 4 Pirelli 2. Middx, Berks, Bucks and Oxon: Amersham 3 HCC 0; Aylesbury 0 Mill H 3; Bracknell 0 Gerrards C 1; Oxford 1 Eastcote 2; Headington 3 Hendon 4; OMT 1 Marlow 1; Ramgarhia 3 PHC Chiswick 0; Pachings Pk 1 Newbury 0. Sunbury 9 Milton Keynes 1. Wokingham 0 Hayes 0.

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper 3 North Notts 0; Hampton Arden 1 Olton and West Warwicks 1, Harborne 1 Khalsa 1; Lichfield 2 Nottingham 4; Leicester W 4 Bloxwich 5. *Clubs:* Bowdon 0 Timperley 2; Cardiff Ath 0 Llan and Llan 2, Newport 2 BSC 3: Southgate 3 Surbiton 0; W Wilts 2 Westbury UB 0.

WOMEN: English indoor championship. South League (E Grinstead): Slough and Woking *qualify* for National finals. Welsh indoor championships (Deeside LC) Final: Swansea 4 Pontypridd 3.

AEWHA Plate: Second round: Ashford 0 Barnes 0 (0-1 pen); Atlanta 4 Burgess H 0; Belper 0 Crimson R 11; Ben Rhydding 2 Morpeth 0. Bexleyheath 3 Bognor Regis 0; Cheam 2 Sevenoaks 0; Chester 7 Harborne 0; Crostyx 0 Wallington 0 (1-2 pen); East Glos 0 W Bromwich 2; Eastcote 0 Havant 1; Exeter 0 Wimborne W 1; GRFC 1 Brentwood *1 (2-3 pen); Kettering 0 Cambridge C 0 (2-0* pen), Letchworth 1 Guildford 0: Liverpool wo Harrogate. Milton K 7 Huntingdon 1; N Staffs 3 Lillington 0; Oldham 2 Neston 0; Pavlors 9 GEC Coventry 0; Pelicans 1 Bishops S 0; P Sunlight 0 Crosby 1; Shrewsbury 3 Staffs Univ 0; St Ives 0 Norwich C 0 (1-3 pen); Swindon 0 Camberley 2, WGC 2 Hounslow 2 (2-1 pen). West Wilts 1 Steel Fisher 7, West Witney 5 Wolfton B 0, Western 0 G Dragons 5; Whitley B 2 Roseberry 0; *Winchmore Hill 5 Aldershot 2,* Yate 8 Newton A 0; York wo Winnington Pk.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 6 Whitley 5; Cardiff 7 Durham 3; Edinburgh 9 Bracknell 4; Fife 6 Humberside 7; Milton Keynes 2 Sheffield 8; Nottingham 14 Peterborough 6. First division: *Blackburn 9 Lee Valley 4;* Chelmsford 6 Solihull 7; Dumfries 9 Trafford 14; Paisley 7 Slough 7; Swindon 7 Telford 4; Teesside 2 Guildford 18.

LUGE

OBERHOF: World Cup: Men: 1, A Zoeggeler (It) 1:28 654, 2, M Prock (Austria) 1.28.759; 3, N Huber (It) 1:28.840. Pairs: 1, S Krausse and J Behrendt (Ger) 1:23.832; 2, Y Mankel and T Rudolph (Ger) 1:23.936; 3, T Schiegl and M Schiegl (Austria) 1.24 275. Standings: 1, Prock 204; 2, J Mueller (Ger) 171; 3 Zoeggeler 169. Women: Singles: 1, G Kohlisch (Ger) 1min 23.079sec; 2, S Otto (Ger) 1:23.508, 3, J Bode (Ger) 1:23.778. Standings: 1, Otto 104, 2, Kohlisch 91, 3 Bode and G Weissensteiner (It) 74.

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR: Dakar rally: Final standings: 1, P *Lartigue (Fr, Citroen) 72hr 17min 44sec;* 2, B Saby (Fr, Mitsubishi) 3hr 24min 53sec; 3, K Shinozuka (Japan, Mitsubishi) 4 10:04; 4, J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) 7 12:08. Motorcycles: 1, S Peterhansel (Fr, Yamaha) 80hr 45min 15sec; 2, J Arcarons (Sp, Cagiva) 23min 16sec behind; 3, E Orioli (It, Cagiva) 1.21:08; 4, F Meoni (It, Honda) 6:11:30.

NORDIC SKIING

NOVE MESTO NA MORAVE: World Cup: Cross-country: Men (4 x 10km): 1, Finland 1hr 58min 21.4sec. 2, Sweden 1:57:43 9; 3, Italy 1:57:46.9. Women (4 x 5km): 1, Russia I 1hr 05min 04.6sec; 2, Norway 1:06:26.5; 3, Russia II 1:06:41.9. World Cup standings: 1, Russia 2567pts; 2, Norway 919; 3, Sweden 545.

LIBEREC, Czech Republic: Men's World *Cup combined event: Cross-country* (15km). 1, K Ogiwara (Japan); 2, S Ogiwara (Japan) at 11.1sec; 3, B-E Vik (Nor) 47.7. World Cup standings: 1, K Ogiwara 615; 2, F-B Lundberg (Nor) 548; 3, Vik 455.

REAL TENNIS

CANFORD SCHOOL: British women's doubles championship: *Semi-finals: S Jones and S Haswell bt S Macintosh and F* Drew 6-0, 6-1. F Deuchar and E Wood bt I Tuffnell and L Bamfield 6-1, 6-2. Final: Jones and Haswell bt Deuchar and Wood, 6-4, 6-3.

SAILING

SAN DIEGO: America's Cup: Defenders series: Citizen cup: Team Dennis Conner *(D Conner, US) bt America III (L Egnot, US)* 5min 47sec. Challenger series: Louis Vuitton cup: Nippon Challenge (M Namba, Japan) bt Australia I (J Bertrand, Aus) 1min 6sec; Team New Zealand (R Coutts, NZ) bt Spain (P Campos, Sp) 10min 53sec; Sydney 95 (C Law, Aus) bt France America 95 (M Pajot, Fr) 20sec; Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson, NZ) bye.

SHINTY

NORTH: Marine Harvest League: First division: Beauly 2 Skye 4; Kingussie 8 Lochaber 1; Lovat 5 Newtonmore 3. Glenmorangie. Balliemore Cup: First round replay: Lochcarron 2 Inverness 1; Strathdearn Cup: Second round: Kincraig 1 Beauly 5.

SOUTH: Marine Harvest League: Second division: Taynuilt 2 St Andrews University 4. Glenmorangie Qualifying Cup: Semi-final: Glasgow University 0 Strachur 3. Glasgow Celtic Society Cup: Quarter-finals: Inveraray 5 Taynuilt 3; Kyles Athletic 2 Oban Camanachd 3; Oban Celtic 6 Kilmory 0. Colintraive Cup: First round: Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Lochside Rovers 4.

SKIING

KITZBUHEL: Men's World Cup: Downhill: First race: 1, L Alphand (Fr) 1min 40.97sec; 2, P Ortlieb (Austria) 1:41.28, 3, K Ghedina (It) 1:41.29; 4, E Podivinsky (Can) 1:41 35; *5, H Trinkl (Austria) 1.41.80; 6, T Moe (US)* 1:41.92; 21 G Bell (GB) 1:42.88; 42 M Bell (GB) 1.43 98. Second race: 1, Alphand 1:40.33; 2, A Assinger (Austria) 1:40.58; 3, W Perathoner (It) 1 41.43; 4, A Fattori (It) 1:41.50; 5, P Vitalini (It) 1:41.56; 6, G Mader (Austria) 1:41.67; 31 G Bell. Leading World Cup downhill standings: 1, Alphand 316pts; 2, P Ortlieb (Austria) 246; 3, Assinger 193; 4, J Strobl (Austria) 174; 5, Mader 172; 30 G Bell 22.

SLALOM: 1, A Tomba (It) 1min 37.26sec; 2, J Kosir (Sloven) 1:38.06; 3, O C Furuseth (Nor) 1:38.20, 4, M Reiter (Austria) 1:38.62; 5, M Tritscher (Austria) 1:39 32, 6, S Amiez (Fr) 1:39.48. Combined (downhill plus slalom). 1, M Girardelli (Lux) 3min 23 71sec, 2, H. Strand-Nilsen (Nor) 3.25.38. World Cup slalom standings (after six races): 1, Tomba 600pts; 2, Tritscher 345; 3, Kosir 275. Overall World Cup standings (after 16 races): 1, Tomba 750pts; 2, Kosir 430; 3 Aamodt 394; 4, Mader 382; 5, Alphand 376.

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN: Women's World Cup: Super-giant slalom: 1, F Masnada (Fr) 1min. 25.92sec; 2, P Street (US) 1:25.96; 3, S Nobis (US) 1:25.99; 4, A Flemmen (Nor) 1:26.10, 5, K Seizinger (Ger) 1:26.11; 6, R Goetschi (Austria) 1:26.18.

SLALOM: 1, M Ertl (Ger) 1min 22.54sec; 2, D Compagnoni (It) 1:22.67, 3, G Zingre-Graf (Switz) 1:22.83; 4, E Bevaschi (It) 1:23.23; 5, K Andersson (Swe) 1:23.35; 6, P Chauvet (Fr) 1:23.41. World Cup slalom standings: 1, V Schneider (Switz) 280pts; 2, P Wiberg (Swe) 175; 3, Ertl 173. Overall World Cup standings: 1 H Zeller-Baehler (Swe) 658pts; 2 Seizinger 643; 3, Schneider 582; 4, Ertl 490, 5, Wiberg 379.

BRECKENRIDGE, Colorado: Freestyle Classic: Moguls: Men: 1, S Shupletsov (Russ) 27.46; 2, E Dybwig (US) 26.08; 3, J *Smart (Can) 25.78. Women:* 1, D Weinbrecht (US) 25.69pts; 2, L McIntyre (US) 25.56; 3, R Monod (Fr) 25.55. World Cup standings: Men: 1, Shupletsov 300pts; 2, J-L Brassard (Can) 266; 3, E Grospiron (Fr) 248. Women: 1, Monod 268, 2, Weinbrecht 272; 3, McIntyre 268.

SNOOKER

BIRMINGHAM: Charity challenge: Semi-finals: D Taylor (N Ire) bt T Griffiths (Wales) 6-3; S Hendry (Scot) bt A McManus (Scot) 6-5. Final: Hendry leads Taylor 7-1.

BLACKPOOL: British open: Sixth qualifying round: S Newbury (Wales) bt J Giles (Eng) 5-2; M Johnston-Allen (Eng) bt P Wykes (Eng) 5-3; S Lee (Eng) bt B Rowswell (Eng) 5-2; J Wych (Can) bt N Fruin (Eng) 5-4, J Birch (Eng) bt J Read (Eng) 5-1. A Hamilton (Eng) bt E Henderson (Scot) 5-2. A Davies (Wales) bt M King (Eng) 5-4; C Small (Scot) bt N Gilbert (Eng) 5-1: N Mosley (Eng) bt R Lawler (Eng) 5-1. D Finbow (Eng) bt M Wilson (Eng) 5-3; N Terry *(Eng) bt J Bodle (Eng) 5-1; T Jones (Eng) bt* J Michie (Eng) 5-3.

TABLE TENNIS

KARLSRUHE: European nations cup. Group A: England 3 Belgium 0; England 3 France 1 . Group B: Sweden 3 Hungary 1, Germany 3 Poland 0.

Semi-finals: Sweden 3 England 0. ; Russia *3 Germany 2* Final: Sweden 3 Russia 1

TENNIS

SYDNEY: New South Wales open: Men: Semi-finals: P McEnroe (US) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 6-4; R Fromberg (Aus) bt R Furlan (It) 6-4, 6-3. Final: McEnroe bt Fromberg 6-2, 7-6. Women: Semi-finals: L Davenport (US) bt K Date (Japan) 6-4, 4-1 ret. G Sabatini (Arg) bt M-J Fernandez (US) 6-1, 6-4. Final: Sabatini bt Davenport 6-3, 6-4.

AUCKLAND: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: C Adams (US) bt V Spadea (US) 7-6 2-6, 6-4; T Enqvist (Swe) bt A Volkov (Russ) 7-6, 6-2. Final: Enqvist bt Adams 6-2, 6-1.

JAKARTA: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: P Haarhus (Holl) bt K Carlsen (Den) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; R Vasek (Cz) bt R Agenor (Haiti) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. Final: Haarhus bt Vasek 7-5, 7-5.

KOOYONG, Australia: Men's tournament: Final: M Chang (US) bt P Sampras (US) 7-6, 6-3.

ADELAIDE: International exhibition tournament: Final: G Forget (Fr) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7-6, 7-6.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE: First division: Leeds 3 Wessex 1.

EBA CUP: Quarter-final: Leeds II 3 Newcastle II 1.

RACING

ASCOT

Going: good

1.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Lyphantastic (J Railton, 9-1) 2, Jack Button (10-1). 3, Poinciana (66-1). Captain Jack 5-2 fav. 14 ran. 6l, 7l. C Mann. Tote £12.80; £3.10, £1.70, £9.90. *DF £60.80. Trio £733.50. CSF £82.70.*

1.35 (3m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Crystal Spirit** (J Osborne, 4-1). 2, Southolt (4-1), 3, Camelot Knight (8-1). Rodeo Star 5-2 fav. 8 ran. 5l, 3½l. I Balding. Tote £4.20. £1.50, £2.20, £1.90. DF £10.80. CSF £19.55. Tricast £107.06.

2.10 (3m ch) 1, Martha's Son (R Farrant, 3-1) 2, Egypt Mill Prince (10-1), 3, Coulton (7-1). Viking Flagship 11-4 fav. 8 ran. 2½l, 5l. *T Forster. Tote £3.90, £1.40, £2.20, £2.30.* DF £19.50. CSF £27.91. Tricast £168.18.

2.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Chief's Song** (J Osborne, 100-30) 2, Silver Groom (13-8 fav). 3, Sublime Fellow (7-2). 10 ran. 8l, 6l. S Dow. Tote £3.80. £1.10, £1.40, £1.60. DF £3.10. Trio £2.90. CSF £8.79.

3.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Brave Highlander (J Osborne 7-1), 2, Greenhil Tare Away (11-2) 3, Cokenny Boy (7-1). Brownhall *8-13 fav. 6 ran. 20l, 7l. J Gifford. Tote £6.60.* £2.40. £2.30. DF £20.90. CSF £38.31.

3.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Blast Freeze** (M A Fitzgerald, 2-1), 2, Inchcailloch (7-4 fav), 3, Isaiah (4-1). 9 ran. 6l, 6l. N Henderson. Tote £2.70, £1.20, £1.20, £1.60. DF £3.00. Trio £2.30. CSF. £5.90. Tricast £11.18.

Jackpot: £8,629.30.

Placepot: £113.50. **Quadpot:** £8.40.

CHELTENHAM

Going: good to soft (good in places)

12.45 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Golden Arrow** (G Bradley, 9-2), 2, Shoolk (16-1) 3, Kissair (2-1 fav). 13 ran. 3½l, 9l. I Balding. Tote £5.20; £2.60, £3.50, £1.50. DF £39.30. Trio £37.70. CSF £69.20.

1.15 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Master Boston** *(D* Gallagher, 9-1). 2, Spuffington (9-2), 3, Oatis Regrets (4-5 fav). 9 ran. 3l, 3½l. R Woodhouse. Tote £8.10, £1.70, £1.60, £1.10. DF £21.40. Trio £5.00. CSF £47.03.

1.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Mysilv** (N Williamson, 3-1 jt-fav), 2, Pridwell (3-1 jt-fav), 3, Salwan (9-1). 7 ran. NR Suvez. 5l, 14l. C Egerton. Tote £5.10; £2.00, £1.90. DF £3.90. CSF. £11.88. Tricast £63.50.

2.25 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1, **Dont Tell The Wife** (J F Titley, 3-1 jt-fav). 2, Bolmount Captain (20-1) 3, Avonburn (16-1). Mere Class 3-1 jt-fav. 9 ran. 15l, 1½l. Mrs D Haine. Tote £3.70. £1.70, £4.10, £3.30. DF £47.40. Trio £166.90. CSF £49.55. Tricast £745.92.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Burnt Imp** (J Callaghan, 10-1). 2, Auburn Castle (11-1). 3, Wings Of Freedom (10-1); 4, Capenwray (9-1). Nick The Beak 9-2 fav. 17 ran. 1½l, 1½l. G Moore. Tote £11.10; £3.60, £2.60, £2.10, £2.60. DF. £88.80. Trio £185.20. CSF £111.75. Tricast £1,047.75.

3.35 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Beech Road** (A P McCoy, 14-1), 2, Jumbeau (7-1), 3, Guburn's Nephew (12-1). Encore Un Peu 11-8 fav. 8 ran. NR Andermatt. 15l, 7l. G Balding. Tote £13.90, £2.00, £1.70, £2.00. DF. £31.80. Trio £98.80. CSF £97.14. Tricast £1,103.42.

4.10 (2m 1f flat) 1, **Heritor** (R Dunwoody, 10-1); 2, Tarian Moss (16-1), 3, Buttercup Joe (20-1). Queen Of Spades 9-4 fav. 24 ran. NR Some Toddler. 1¼l, 4l. M Pipe. Tote £12.40; £4.80, £7.20, £8.50. DF £427.90. Trio not won.

Quadpot: £161.50 (part won; pool of £21.83 carried forward to Fontwell Park today). **Placepot:** £243.70.

NEWCASTLE

12.40 1, **Uncle Doug** (11-2); 2, Top Cees (2-1 fav); 3, Moreof A Gunner (50-1); 4, *Montrave (20-1). 19 ran*

1.10 1, **Sakura** (11-4 fav). 2, Super Seve (13-2); 3, Jendorcet (12-1). 13 ran. NR Brilliant Disguise, Falcons Dawn, Will Soon.

1.45 1, **Uranus Collonges** (5-1); 2, Habton Whin (8-1) 3, Bluff Knoll (100-30 fav). 11 ran.

2.20 1, **Morgans Harbour** (21-20 fav); 2, Trap Dancer (50-1); 3, Threeoutoffour (12-1). 10 ran.

2.55 1, **Morceli** (7-4 fav). 2, Northern Squire (14-1); 3, Toogood To Be True (11-2). 12 ran.

3.25 1, **Golden Hello** (5-4 fav). 2, Livio (12-1); 3, Microlite (5-1). 16 ran.

3.55 1, **Native Worth** (8-1); 2, Noyan (Evens fav); 3, Cash Chase (9-1). 12 ran. NR Notable Exception.

LINGFIELD PARK

12.55 1, **Hattaafeh** (6-1), 2, Dvorak (6-4 fav). 3, Regal Pursuit (3-1). 8 ran.

1.30 1, **Water Hazard** (14-1); 2, Mac's Taxi (5-4 fav), 3, Mediate (4-1). 10 ran.

2.05 1, **Ultra Beat** (7-1), 2, Wasblest (7-4). 3, Bon Secret (7-2). Abbey House 11-8 fav. 6 ran. NR. Avant Huit.

2.40 1, **Kadin** (5-1); 2, Pride Of May (6-1); 3, Elburg (9-1). Beaufele 2-1 fav. 7 ran.

3.10 1, **Benfleet** (8-11 fav); 2, Bag Of Tricks (9-1). 3, Mingavie (11-2). 6 ran.

3.40 1, **Red Valerian** (7-1), 2, Ertlon (9-2 fav). 3, Triple Joy (6-1); 4, Mad Welcome (16-1). 16 ran.

LEOPARDSTOWN

1.35 1, **All The Aces** (Evens fav). 2, Fourth Of July (10-1), 3, Another Excuse (8-1). 8 ran.

2.10 1, **Putty Road** (5-2 fav); 2, Man Of Arran (13-2); 3, Shanes Hero (3-1). 10 ran.

2.45 THE LADBROKE (Limited handicap hurdle: £39,200 2m)

1, **Anusha** (J Broderick, 25-1), 2, Derrymoyle (9-1), 3, Cockney Lad (9-4 fav); 4, Andante (20-1). 17 ran. 1l, 4l. M Hourigan. Tote £39.80; £7.00, £2.40, £2.00, £3.60. DF. £197.80. CSF £217.42. Tricast £654.77.

POINT-TO-POINT

Saturday

ARMY (Larkhill) Saddle Club. 1, Charden (Lt-Col R Webb-Bowen, 8-1), 2, Scrumpy Country, 3, Hasty Salvo. 6 ran. **Open Mdn I** 1, Now We Know (J Pritchard, 8-1), 2, Chidhay Chocolate, 3, Rinanna Bay. 13 ran. **Open Mdn II** 1, Our Wizzer (E Bailey, 14-1), 2, Whatapickle, 3, Saracen's Boy. 16 ran. **Ladies** 1, Cool Dawn (Miss D Harding, 3-1), 2, Qualified, 3, Stephens Pet. 14 ran. **Land Rover Open.** 1, Fantus (T Mitchell, 9-4); 2, Holland House, 3, Mr Murdock. 11 ran. **Confined** 1, Woodbury Fair (M Felton, 4-5 fav), 2, Rare Celtic, 3, Herlin. 8 ran.

NORTH NORFOLK (Higham) Hunt: 1, The Aviator (Mrs S Martin, 5-2); 2, Beholder VI, 3, Rupert Connors. 3 ran. **Open Mdn I** 1, Ha-To-See (S R Andrews, 8-1), 2, Golden Fellow; 3, Bruce Buckley. 14 ran. **Open Mdn II** 1, Bitter Aloe (S Cowell, 5-2), 2, Alsemero, 3, Across The Card. 9 ran. **Open.** 1, Green's Van Goyen (T McCarthy, 7-4) 2, Trifast Lad, 3, Flashy Buck. 10 ran. **Confined** 1, River Melody (T Moore, 9-4); 2, Richard Hunt; 3, Ryme And Run. 7 ran. **Ladies** 1, What A Gig (Miss P Ellison, 12-1), 2, Ballyandrew; 3, Johnny Scattercash. 15 ran. **PPOA** 1, Craftsman (Miss G Chown, 7-1); 2, Tough Minded, 3, Ollie's Lady. 13 ran.

Yesterday

GARTH & SOUTH BERKS (Tweseldown): **Restricted:** 1, Not Quite White (T McCarthy 15-8), 2, Milled Oats, 3, Flaked Oats. 10 ran. **Mdn I:** 1, Nicksline (T Hills, 2-1 fav), 2, Sands Of Gold, 3, Just Ballytoo. 12 ran. **Mixed Open:** 1, Wild Illusion (Miss P Curling, 4-9 fav), 2, Cape Cottage, 3, Balda Boy. 11 ran. **Mdn II:** 1, Tax Mier (J Mause, 5-2), 2, Holy Mackerel, 3, Celtic Fountain. 11 ran. **Confined:** 1, Golden Freeze (C Morlock, 7-2) 2, Roc De Prince; 3, Phelioff. 10 ran. **Hunt:** 1, Vulforo (T Underwood, 9-4), 2, Cool It A Bit: 3, Spartan Sun. 3 ran.

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FUJI FILM TROPHY: Fifth round: Basildon 0 Islington 4, Liverpool 3 Chesterfield 1; Manchester 3 East Riding 1, Redbridge 0 Swansea 2; Warley 1 Langbaurgh 2.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS SNICKERS UNDER-16 TROPHY: Cardinal Heenan, Liverpool 3 Aldershaw High, Greater Manchester 1.

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Under-19 Trophy: Lancashire 3 Greater Manchester 1

LONDON RANGERS TROPHY. West London 0 South London 4

KENT CUP: Dartford 0 Medway 2, Maidstone 1 Bexley 2.

MIDDLESEX BATCHELOR CUP: Brent 1 Hounslow 3, Harrow 2 Barnet 0

ESSEX FINCH SHIELD: Newham 1 Redbridge 1.

LONDON KAY TROPHY: Islington 2 Hackney 1

BRIGHTON CLIFFORD SHIELD: Hazelowen 1 Wolverhampton 0

NORTHERN MERIT: Bradford 0 Leeds 1, Timeside 2 Chester 1

ALDER CUP: Halton 5 Mid Cheshire 0

HAUGH TROPHY: St Augustines, Canterbury 3 South East Sussex 7.

NORTH WEST WOODWARD CUP: Sefton 3 St Helens 4

INTER DISTRICT: Vale of White Horse 3 East Berkshire 1

RUGBY UNION

Bradford GS 6 Nottingham HS 32

Chichester HS 10 RGS Guildford 13

City of London Freemen's 30 Glyn 12

John Fisher 16 Emmanuel 0

St Edward's, Liverpool 39 St Ambrose 5

King Henry VIII, Coventry 18
King Edward's, Birmingham 24

Pocklington 18 RGS Newcastle 8

QEGS Wakefield 67 Mount St Mary's 0

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Bristol 7
Solihull 14

Stockport GS 10 St Anselm's 5

Wimbledon 30 St Olave's 10

Yarm 32 Ripon 12

HOCKEY

RESULTS: Boys: Churcher's 8 Portsmouth GS 2, Framlingham 0 Norwich 2, *Oakham 2 Kimbolton 0, Trinity, Croydon 0* Tonbridge 2. Seaford 7 Brighton 1. Girls: The Mount School 0 Pocklington 1

KNOLE RUN

INDIVIDUAL: 1, Yusuf (Trinity) 32min 18sec. 2, Roland (Stanford) 33:47; 3, Matthews (Winchester) 34:07, 4, Adams (Haileybury) 34 30, 5, Stephenson (Harrow) 34 38. 6, Davis (St Edmunds) 34.49. 7, Tucker (Winchester) 35 02; 8, McGurk (Challoners) 35 10. 9, Tuke (Winchester) 35 18. 10, McKay (King's Rochester) 35 20

TEAM: 1 Winchester 82pts; 2, Challoners 169; 3, Shrewsbury 214; 4, Stanford 246. 5, Trinity 305. 6, Radley 345. 7, Harrow 365. 8, King Henry VIII, Coventry 460. 9, George Heriot's 471; 10, Wellington Coll 475

Report, page 33

THE TIMES
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Action from the 1,500m final of the British speed skating championships on Saturday. Nicky Gooch was the winner of the race, but Gooch lost his title to Matthew Jasper by two points. Photograph: Des Jenson. Report, page 33

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy

Semi-finals

Widnes 4 Warrington 30

Widnes: Try: Broadbent. Warrington: Tries: Forster 2, Harris 2, Myler. Goals: Davies 4. Dropped goals: Davies 2. Att: 6,181

Wigan 34 Castleford 6

Wigan: Tries: Offiah 3, Hall, Robinson. Goals: Botica 7. Castleford: Try: Kemp. Goal: Crooks. Att: 13,006

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

Doncaster 42 Hull 38

Doncaster Rovers: Tries: D Evans 2, Hayes, Jackson, Manning, Whakarau, Zelei. Goals: Green 7. Hull: Tries: Sterling 2, Cassidy, Endacott, Hewitt, G Nolan. Goals: Hewitt 7. Att: 3,482.

Leeds 46 Bradford 30

Leeds: Tries: Hanley 3, Schofield 2, Eyres, Innes, Mercer. Goals: Holroyd 6, Hanley. Bradford Northern: Tries: Myers 3, Dixon, Watson. Goals: Fox 5. Att: 14,058

Sheffield 14 Wakefield 41

Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Carr, Farrell, Jackson. Goal: Briggs. Wakefield Trinity: *Tries: Brown 2, Child, McGowan, Piva,* Slater, Wright. Goals: Wright 6. Dropped goal: Wright. Att: 3,700.

St Helens 26 Featherstone 20

St Helens: Tries: Ela, Fogerty, Haigh, Perelini. Goals: Goulding 5. Featherstone Rovers: Tries: Calland, Gibson, Southernwood. Goals: Aston 4. Att: 5,339

Friday's late result

Workington 36 Halifax 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	18	15	1	2	530	339	31
Wigan	16	15	0	1	598	232	30
Bradford	19	13	1	5	512	336	27
St Helens	18	12	1	5	464	352	25
Halifax	17	11	1	5	455	287	23
Castleford	15	10	2	3	430	260	22
Warrington	17	10	1	6	403	286	21
Oldham	17	7	1	9	330	430	15
Salford	17	6	1	10	370	392	13
Sheffield	18	6	0	12	341	457	12
Wakefield	17	6	0	11	253	446	12
Doncaster	17	5	1	11	288	473	11
Widnes	16	4	1	11	194	396	9
Workington	17	4	1	12	251	473	9
Featherstone	18	3	1	14	338	432	7
Hull	17	3	1	13	310	476	7

Second division

Barrow	34	Bramley	20
Batley	22	Hull KR	6
Dewsbury	8	Whitehaven	18
Huddersfield	*20*	*London Broncos*	*8*
Hunslet	56	Highfield	0
Leigh	32	Carlisle	20
Ryedale York	10	Rochdale	36
Swinton	6	Keighley	48

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keighley	17	14	1	2	557	208	29
Batley	18	14	0	4	415	208	28
Dewsbury	18	12	0	6	453	268	24
Hull KR	17	11	0	6	535	226	22
Huddersfield	18	11	0	7	432	304	22
Rochdale	18	11	0	7	463	355	22
London Broncos	18	11	0	7	388	291	22
Whitehaven	16	11	0	5	369	310	22
Leigh	16	10	0	6	407	288	20
Ryedale York	17	8	1	8	414	350	17
Hunslet	18	7	0	11	331	514	14
Swinton	17	6	0	11	324	498	12
Bramley	17	5	0	12	326	337	10
Carlisle	18	4	0	14	293	553	8
Barrow	18	2	0	16	237	538	4
Highfield	17	1	0	16	120	816	2

National Conference League

Premier division: Askam 12 Dudley Hill 24; Heworth 22 Hemel Hempstead 14; Mayfield *33 Egremont 14; Saddleworth 10 W Hull 16.* Wigan St P 22 Leigh MW 9; Woolston 6 Chorley 26

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Second round replay: Beverley 20 Normanton 10

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bath 26 Northampton 6

Bath: Tries: Geoghegan, Swift. Cons: Callard 2. Pens: Callard 4. Northampton: Pens: Grayson 2.

Leicester 29 Orrell 19

Leicester: Tries: Kilford, Tarbuck. Cons: Harris 2. Pens: Harris 5. Orrell: Tries: Morris, Naylor. Pens: Langford 3

Sale 21 Bristol 9

Sale: Tries: Mallinder, Stocks. Con: Turner. Pens: Turner 3. Bristol: Pens: Tainton 3

Wasps 25 Harlequins 7

Wasps: Tries: Greenstock 2, Ufton. Cons: Gregory 2. Pens: Gregory 2. Harlequins: Try: Mensah. Con: Staples.

W Hartlepool 22 Gloucester 21

West Hartlepool: Tries: Elwine, Jones, D Mitchell. Cons: Stimpson 2. Pen: Stimpson. Gloucester: Tries: Ashmead, Teague. Con: Mapletoft. Pens: Mapletoft 2. Dropped goal: Kimber.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	11	10	1	0	235	124	21
Leicester	11	9	1	1	274	176	19
Wasps	11	8	0	3	310	189	16
Bristol	11	5	0	6	211	222	10
Sale	11	4	1	6	220	245	9
Orrell	11	4	1	6	141	186	9
Gloucester	11	4	0	7	171	189	8
W Hartlepool	11	3	1	7	205	256	7
Harlequins	11	3	1	7	165	245	7
Northampton	11	2	0	9	157	248	4

LEADING SCORERS: 145: J Harris (Leicester; 11 conversions, 36 penalty goals, 5 dropped goals) 141: M Tainton (Bristol; 6c, 42pg, 1dg). 122: P Grayson (Northampton; 1 try, 6c, 34pg, 1dg). 104: R Andrew (Wasps; 2t, 14c, 19pg, 3dg). 101: J Callard (Bath; 10c, 27pg). 85: M Mapletoft (Gloucester; 2t, 9c, 19pg) 77: P Turner (Sale; 15c, 12pg, 3dg). 66: P Challinor (Harlequins; 1t, 2c, 17pg, 2dg). 64: S Langford (Orrell; 3c, 20pg).

Second division

Coventry 6 Nottingham 19

Coventry: Pens: Angell 2. Nottingham: Try: West. Con: Gallagher. Pens: Gallagher 3. Dropped goal: N Carroll.

Fylde 6 Newcastle G 12

Fylde: Pens: Parker 2. Newcastle *Gosforth: Pens: S Mason 4.*

L Irish 6 Saracens 16

London Irish: Pens: Cobbe 2. Saracens: Tries: Buckton, Harries. Pens: Tunningley 2.

Moseley 11 Wakefield 16

Moseley: Try: Anderson. Pens: Kerr 2. Wakefield: Try: Thompson. Con: Jackson. Pens: Jackson 3.

Waterloo 17 L Scottish 9

Waterloo: Try: Greenhalgh. Pens: Ryan 2, Swindells 2. London Scottish: Pens: Russell 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	11	10	0	1	226	134	20
Wakefield	11	7	0	4	207	177	14
Waterloo	11	7	0	4	199	187	14
Newcastle G	11	6	0	5	236	154	12
L Irish	*11*	*6*	*0*	*5*	*241*	*224*	*12*
Nottingham	11	5	0	6	194	187	10
L Scottish	11	4	0	7	199	212	8
Moseley	11	4	0	7	163	215	8
Fylde	11	4	0	7	148	215	8
Coventry	11	2	0	9	142	250	4

LEADING SCORERS: 126: M Jackson (Wakefield; 9 conversions, 36 penalty goals): S Mason (Newcastle Gosforth; 1 try, 14c, 30pg, 1 dropped goal). 115: M Corcoran (London Irish; 3t, 11c, 26pg). 108: A Tunningley (Saracens; 2t, 10c, 26pg). 100: S Swindells (Waterloo; 5c, 30pg). 90: S Hodgkinson (Moseley; 6c, 25pg, 1dg). 75: R Angell (Coventry; 3c, 22pg, 1dg). 74: M Walker (London Scottish; 3t, 4c, 13pg, 4dg): A Parker (Fylde; 7c, 20pg).

Third division

Clifton 18 Bedford 21

Clifton: Tries: Davis, Waddon. Con: Hogg. Pens: Hogg 2. Bedford: Pens: Finnie 4. Dropped goals: Finnie 2, Whelstone.

Morley 21 Harrogate 8

Morley: Tries: Emerson 2. Con: Grayshon. Pens: Grayshon 2. Dropped goal: Grayshon. Harrogate: Try: Bell. Pen: Yates.

Richmond 15 Otley 14

Richmond: Pens: Gregory 5. Otley: Try: *Melville. Pens: Rutledge 3*

Rosslyn Pk 10 Exeter 11

Rosslyn Park: Try: Walshe. Con: Giffen. Pen: Giffen. Exeter: Try: Dovell. Pens: Green 2.

Rugby 15 Blackheath 6

Rugby: Tries: Bishop, Gillooly. Con: Quantrill. Pens: Quantrill. Blackheath: Pens: Howard 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	10	8	0	2	217	114	16
Otley	10	7	0	3	195	116	14
Blackheath	10	7	0	3	148	89	14
Harrogate	10	6	0	4	161	183	12
Rugby	10	5	0	5	156	154	10
Rosslyn Pk	10	5	0	5	155	155	10
Clifton	10	4	0	6	147	181	8
Morley	10	4	0	6	127	199	8
Richmond	10	2	0	8	130	178	4
Exeter	10	2	0	8	88	155	4

LEADING SCORERS: 134: A Finnie (Bedford; 10 conversions, 35 penalty goals, 3 dropped goal). 127: P Rutledge (Otley; 3 tries, 11c, 30pg). 95: S Howard (Blackheath; 4c, 27pg, 2dg). 78: D Clappison (Harrogate; 6c, 20pg, 2dg). 77: S Hogg (Clifton; 7c, 17pg, 4dg). 76: J Grayshon (Morley; 5c, 20pg, 2dg). 54: J Gregory (Richmond; 1t, 5c, 13pg). 50: J Quantrill (Rugby; 7c, 12pg). 41: J Hoad (Richmond; 1t, 11pg, 1dg). 36: M Giffen (Rosslyn Park; 6c, 8pg).

Fourth division

Askeans	17	Rotherham	31
Broughton Pk	12	Liverpool St H	25
Leeds	12	Aspatria	3
Plymouth	31	Reading	30
Redruth	22	Havant	22

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rotherham	10	9	0	1	339	135	18
Reading	10	8	0	2	219	165	16
Havant	10	6	2	2	228	163	14
Liverpool St H	10	6	1	3	182	121	13
Leeds	10	6	0	4	159	130	12
Redruth	10	3	2	5	165	191	8
Aspatria	10	4	0	6	139	207	8
Broughton Pk	10	3	0	7	109	201	6
Plymouth	10	2	1	7	170	219	5
Askeans	10	0	0	10	108	286	0

Fifth division north

Birmingham	3	Preston G	20
Hereford	14	Stourbridge	16
Kendal	51	Barkers Butts	6
Nuneaton	11	Walsall	27
Sheffield	3	Wharfedale	25
Stoke	9	Winnington Pk	9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston G	8	6	1	1	133	86	13
Walsall	7	5	1	1	191	60	11
Wharfedale	8	5	1	2	168	105	11
Kendal	8	5	1	2	156	121	11
Stourbridge	7	5	0	2	121	96	10
Stoke	8	3	1	4	135	125	7
Winnington Pk	7	3	1	3	92	138	7
Sheffield	7	3	0	4	114	97	6
Lichfield	7	3	0	4	110	122	6
Nuneaton	7	2	0	5	81	111	4
Birmingham	7	2	0	5	105	150	4
Hereford	8	1	2	5	113	190	4
Barkers Butts	7	1	0	6	58	167	2

Fifth division south

Basingstoke	9	Met Police	10
Camborne	18	Sudbury	13
H Wycombe	11	Barking	20
Lydney	17	L Welsh	17
N Walsham	14	Henley	6
Weston-s-Mare	18	Tabard	16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
L Welsh	8	6	2	0	254	77	14
Lydney	7	6	1	0	130	71	13
Barking	8	6	0	2	148	111	12
Weston-s-Mare	8	5	0	3	118	100	10
N Walsham	8	5	0	3	135	124	10
Met Police	7	4	0	3	111	107	8
Camborne	7	3	1	3	108	95	7
Tabard	7	3	0	4	142	149	6
Basingstoke	8	2	0	6	97	112	4
Sudbury	7	2	0	5	105	138	4
Henley	7	2	0	5	95	172	4
Berry Hill	7	1	0	6	65	141	2
H Wycombe	7	1	0	6	62	173	2

McEwan's League

First division

Boroughmuir 53 Melrose 29

Boroughmuir: Tries: Burns 3, Hall, Jennings, Stark, Tukalo, Wright. Cons: Easson 5. Pen: Easson. Melrose: Tries: Weir 2, Brown. Con: G Parker. Pens: Parker 4.

Glasgow HK 32 Edinburgh Ac 10

Glasgow High/Kelvinside: Tries: Hawkes 2, Agnew. Con: G Breckenridge. Pen: G Breckenridge. Edinburgh Academicals: Tries: Hoole, Newton. Pens: Shepherd 4. Dropped goal: Hay-Smith.

Gala 20 Dundee HSFP 25

Gala: Tries: Dods 2, Dalgleish. Con: Dods. Pens: Dods 5. Dundee HSFP: Try: *Hamilton. Con: Newton. Pen: Newton.*

Hawick 14 Stirling Co 10

Hawick: Try: Sharp. Pens: Welsh 3. Stirling County: Try: Turner. Con: McKenzie. Pen: McKenzie

Heriot's FP 22 Currie 11

Heriot's FP: Tries: Lawrie, Milne. Pens: Hewitt 4. Currie: Try: Dickson. Pens: Donaldson 2.

Stewarts Mel 16 Watsonians 28

Stewarts Mel FP: Tries: Kittle. Con: Hodgson. Pens: Hodgson 3. Watsonians: Tries: Kerr 2, Hodge. Cons: G Hastings 2. Pens: G Hastings 3.

W of Scotland 13 Jed-Forest 7

West of Scotland: Tries: Stott, Williamson. Pen: Barrett. Jed-Forest: Try: Barrie. Con: Richards.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stirling Co	9	8	0	1	163	116	16
Watsonians	9	7	0	2	233	153	14
Boroughmuir	9	6	0	3	264	177	12
Heriot's FP	9	6	0	3	148	112	12
Melrose	9	5	0	4	216	175	10
Glasgow HK	9	5	0	4	154	119	10
Hawick	9	5	0	4	141	145	10
Gala	9	4	1	4	142	194	9
Edinburgh Ac	9	3	2	4	124	123	8
W of Scotland	9	4	0	5	130	166	8
Dundee HSFP	9	3	1	5	133	168	7
Jed-Forest	9	3	0	6	127	176	6
Stewarts Mel	9	1	0	8	128	204	2
Currie	9	1	0	8	114	194	2

Second division

Corstorphine	12	Preston Lodge	18
Glasgow Ac	19	Grangemouth	20
Gordonians	13	Biggar	15
Haddington	9	Selkirk	26
Kirkcaldy	27	Kelso	10
Musselburgh	11	Edinburgh W	6
Peebles	15	Wigtownshire	3

Insurance Corporation League

First division

Blackrock Col	3	Shannon	10
Dungannon	11	Garryowen	15
Instonians	6	Cork Cons	21
Y Munster	13	Sunday's Well	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shannon	7	7	0	0	125	31	14
Blackrock Col	7	5	0	2	127	79	10
St Mary's Col	6	5	0	1	102	76	10
Garryowen	7	4	0	3	119	82	8
Cork Cons	6	4	0	2	100	87	8
Instonians	6	3	0	3	78	77	6
Sunday's Well	7	2	0	5	69	101	4
Dungannon	6	1	0	5	65	89	2
Old Wesley	5	1	0	4	48	91	2
Lansdowne	5	1	0	4	73	129	2
Y Munster	*6*	*1*	*0*	*5*	*48*	*113*	*2*

Second division

Bangor	11	Old Crescent	9
Greystones	19	Malone	9
Old Belvedere	11	Bective R	10
Terenure Coll	18	Ballymena	25
UCD	3	Dolphin	6

Heineken League

Second division

Llandovery 23 Tenby Utd 3

Llandovery: Tries: P Jones, penalty try. Cons: Richards 2. Pens: Richards 3. Tenby United: Pens: H Evans

Club matches

Aberavon	12	Neath	27
Berry Hill	8	Taunton	8
Cambridge Univ	26	Durham Univ	19
Cardiff	85	Maesteg	3
Cross Keys	13	Newbridge	20
Dunvant	12	Llanharan	17
Narberth	16	Treorchy	51
Newport	22	Pontypool	23
Penarth	5	Abertillery	19
S Wales Pol	24	Bridgend	25
Swansea	22	Llanelli	0

Representative matches

Wales Schools	6	NZ Schools	42
North Schools	17	Australia Sch	27

LONDON: First division: Camberley 20 Ealing 8; Guildford and Godalming 11 Esher 16; Harlow 19 Eton Manor 24; Maidstone 8 Streatham and Croydon 18; Old Colfeians 14 Ruislip 40; Old Mid-Whitgiftians 15 Southend 18.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham 21 St Ives 6; Cheltenham 37 Salisbury 14; Cinderford 9 Barnstaple 15; Gloucester OB 23 Newbury 24, Sherborne 11 Maidenhead 24, Stroud 8 Torquay 15.

MIDLANDS: First division: Camp Hill 11 Mansfield 11, *Derby 6 Leamington* 15, Stafford 19 Westleigh 15, Whitchurch 43 Towcestrians 15: Wolverhampton 3 Bedworth 20; Worcester 47 Syston 3.

NORTH: First division: Huddersfield 16 Widnes 24; Hull Ionians 8 Middlesbrough 9, Manchester 35 Durham City 8, Stockton 12 Tynedale 9; West Park Bramhope 15 Sandal 6, York 12 Bradford and Bingley 15.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S MAIN FIXTURES

TODAY

FOOTBALL

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Dr Martens Cup. Fourth round: Worcester v Rushden and Diamonds (7 30)

DIADORA LEAGUE: Carlsberg Cup: Third round: Ruislip Manor v Hayes (7 30)

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Notts County (7 0). Wolverhampton v Blackburn (7 30, at Telford). Second division. Birmingham City v Middlesbrough (7 0), Newcastle v Oldham (7 0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Luton (7 30). Chelsea v Bristol Rovers (7 0, at Kingstonian), Portsmouth v Swindon (7 0), Tottenham v Norwich (7 30, at St Albans City)

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Swindon v Portsmouth (7 30). Third round *replay: Nottingham Forest v Bristol City* (7 30)

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: First division: Woodford v Catford (7.30)

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Under 18 Trophy: Herefordshire v Shropshire (at Westfield FC, 7 30)

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Southwell (AW, flat, first race 1 30). Carlisle (1.20). Fontwell Park (1 40)

SNOOKER: World championship qualifiers (Blackpool)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third round replays: Carlisle v Sunderland (7 30), Leeds v Walsall (7 45), Middlesbrough v Swansea (7.45), Watford v Scarborough (7 45)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division. Cambridge Utd v Cardiff (7 45)

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Stafford v Halifax (7 45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Falkirk v Partick (7 30), Kilmarnock v Motherwell (7 45). Second division: Clyde v Stirling (7 30). Third division: Arbroath v Forfar (7 30). East Stirling v Montrose (7 30)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section. Quarter-final: Wigan v Crewe (7 30)

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round replay: Norwich v Stoke (7 30)

OTHER SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Club matches (7 0) Aberavon v Swansea; Maesteg v Newbridge, Mountain Ash v Pontypridd, Pontypool v Glamorgan Wanderers. South Wales Police v Neath

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, flat, 1 30), Chepstow (1 15).

SNOOKER: World championship qualifiers (Blackpool)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third round replays: Arsenal v Millwall (7 45), Blackburn v Newcastle (Sky, 7 45). Bristol Rovers v Luton (8 0); Liverpool v Birmingham (7.45), Manchester City v Notts County (7.45). Stoke v Bristol City (7 45). Tranmere v Bury (7 30). West Bromwich v Coventry (7 45).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hearts v Hibernian (7 45).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham v Hemel Hempstead (8 0). National Cup: Quarter-finals: Chester v Sheffield (7 30). Leopards v London (7 0).

RUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Bitter Championship: First division: Warrington v Castleford (7.30): Widnes v Workington (7.30). Second division: Keighley v Leigh (7.30).

RUGBY UNION: Representative match: West Wales Schools v New Zealand Schools (at Swansea, 6.30). Club matches: Cambridge University v RAF (3 0): Oxford University v Royal Navy (3 0).

RACING: Wolverhampton (AW, flat, 2.0), Ludlow (1.20), Windsor (1.40).

SNOOKER: World championship qualifiers (Blackpool)

THURSDAY

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, flat, 1 40), Nottingham (1.30), Taunton (1 20).

FRIDAY

BASKETBALL: National Cup: Quarter-final: Doncaster v Thames Valley (8.0).

HOCKEY: Indoor Club Championships Finals (Crystal Palace): Pool A: Old Loughtonians, Hull, East Grinstead. Pool B: Barford Tigers, Stourport, St Albans.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Stones Bitter Championship: First division: Bradford v Wigan (Sky, 7 30)

RUGBY UNION: Representative matches: *Ireland A v England A (Donnybrook, 2.30),* Irish Students v English Students (Donnybrook): Scotland A v France A (Hughenden, 2 0), French Students v Welsh Students (Paris). Club matches: Abercynon v Gillach Goch (7.0). Abertillery v Glamorgan Wanderers (7 0). Berry Hill v Penarth (7.0): Bridgend v Llanharan (7 0): Cardiff v Bristol (7 0). Carmarthen Quins v Narberth (7 0), Ebbw Vale v Pontypool Utd (7 0). Gloucester v Exeter (7.0). Nottingham v Rugby *(7.15); Old Belvedere v Leicester (7 15).* Pontypridd v Cross Keys (7 0); St Mary's College v Fylde (2.30), Tenby Utd v Llanelli (7 0); Tredegar v South Wales Police (7 0); Treorchy v Cheltenham (7.0); Whitland v Llandovery (7.0)

RACING: Southwell (AW, flat, 1.40), Catterick (1.20). Kempton Park (1.30).

SNOOKER: World championship qualifiers (Blackpool).

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix (Gloucester)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP (3.0): Coventry v Arsenal; Everton v Crystal Palace; Ipswich v Chelsea; Leicester v Leeds; Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa; QPR v Norwich, Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle, Southampton v West Ham; Tottenham v *Manchester City; Wimbledon* v Liverpool.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE (3 0) First division: Bolton v Charlton, Bristol City v Sheffield Utd; Burnley v Reading, Luton v Wolverhampton, Middlesbrough v Grimsby; Millwall v Swindon; Southend v Port Vale; Stoke v Barnsley; Sunderland v Notts County; West Bromwich v Watford. Second division: Birmingham v Shrewsbury, Bradford v Bristol Rovers, Brighton v *Cardiff;* Cambridge Utd v *Bournemouth;* Chester v Peterborough, Huddersfield v York; Hull v Brentford, Leyton Orient v Blackpool. Oxford Utd v Stockport, Plymouth v Rotherham; Swansea v Crewe, Wycombe v Wrexham. Third division: Barnet v Lincoln; Doncaster v Exeter, Fulham v Northampton; Gillingham v Colchester; Hereford v Chesterfield; Preston v Mansfield; Rochdale v Carlisle; Scarborough v Bury, Scunthorpe v Torquay. *Walsall v Darlington; Wigan v Hartlepool.*

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE (3.0): Premier division: Dundee Utd v Motherwell; Hibernian v Aberdeen; Kilmarnock v Falkirk; Partick v Celtic; Rangers v Hearts. First division: Clydebank v Dundee; Dunfermline v Hamilton; St Johnstone v St Mirren, Stranraer v Raith. Second division: Brechin v Berwick; Clyde v Queen of South, Dumbarton v Stirling; East Fife v Stenhousemuir; Meadowbank v Greenock Morton. Third division: Albion v Montrose; Alloa v Forfar; Arbroath v Cowdenbeath; Queen's Park v Caley Thistle; *Ross County* v East Stirling.

RUGBY UNION

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: Ireland v England (Dublin); France v Wales (Paris). International match: Scotland v Canada (Murrayfield). Representative match: France A v Wales A (Paris). CIS County Championship: Quarter-final: Gloucestershire v Surrey (at Bristol, 2.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: **Budweiser League:** Derby v Doncaster (8.0): Hemel Hempstead v Sheffield (7.30): Manchester v London (7.30). Worthing v Thames Valley (8.0). National Cup: Quarter-final: Leicester v Birmingham (7 30).

BOXING: Glasgow: WBC International super-bantamweight title: Naseem Hamed (Sheffield, holder) v Armando Castro (Mex); vacant British cruiserweight title, Dennis Andries (Hackney) v Donzil Browne (Leeds).

RACING: Lingfield Park (AW, flat, 1.25), Wolverhampton (AW, flat, 7 0), Catterick (1 10). Haydock Park (BBC, 1.0), Kempton Park (C4, 1.15).

SNOOKER: Dr Marten's European League: Irthlingborough: J White (Eng) v K Doherty (Scot); S Hendry (Scot) v A McManus (Scot): S Davis (Eng) v R *O'Sullivan (Eng).*

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix (Gloucester).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Manchester Utd v Blackburn (Sky, 4.0).

HOCKEY

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CLUB TROPHY: First round: Alderley Edge v Corby: British Airways Club v Old Holcombeians, Basingstoke v John Player. Blackheath v Leominster; Bradfield College v Romford; Broxbourne v Barclays Bank, Camberley v Jersey; Coalville v Cirencester; Durham University v GPT Coventry; Ipswich and East Suffolk v Old Cranleighans: Kettering v York CS Trojans; Kings Heath and Pickwick v Plymouth GSOB; Leek v Ramgarhia (Leeds): Letchworth v Bowdon; Lincoln Imps v Tunbridge Wells; Lloyds Bank v Royal Logistics Corps; Marden Russets v Robinsons; Market Deeping v Bradford, Marlborough v Crawley; Milton v Rotherham; Oxted v Blossomfield; Oxton v Broadland; Penzance v RAF Support Command; Shefford v Swalwell; Shrewsbury v St Neots. Southampton Tauntonians v Long Sutton, Springfields v Southend. Torbay v Derby; West Derby v Spondon: Whitehaven v Norwich Union; Wokingham v Amersham, Yeovil and Sherborne v Bexley Invicta.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Featherstone Rovers v Doncaster (3.30): Halifax v Castleford (3 0): Leeds v Warrington (3 0); Oldham v Sheffield Eagles (3.0); St Helens v Hull (3 0): Widnes v Wakefield Trinity (3.0); Workington Town v Salford (3 0)

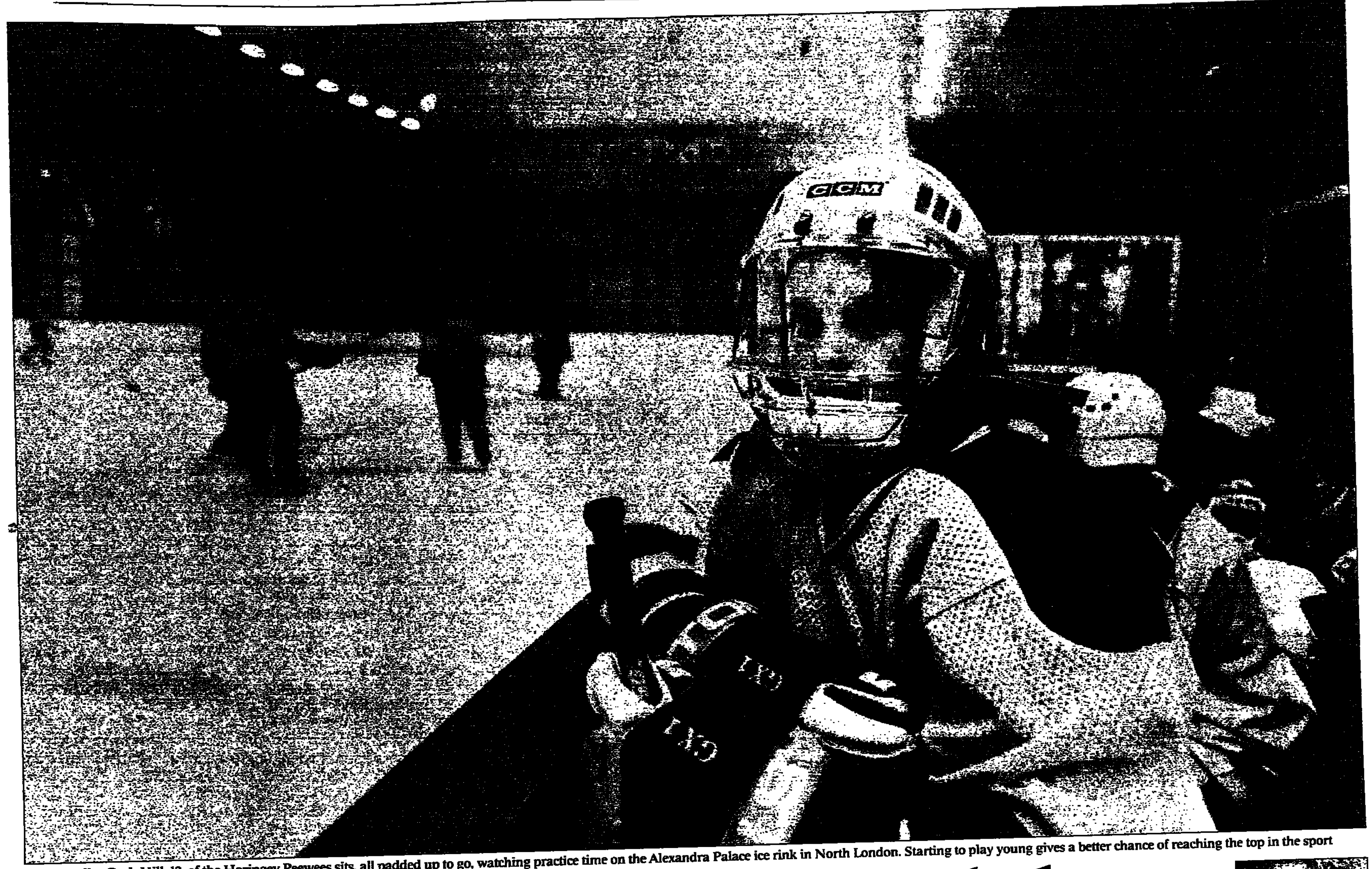
OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Doncaster v Chester (5.30): Sheffield v Leopards (6.15).

صكرا ابنا الاول

Gareth A. Davies takes a look at the fastest team game around — the compelling sport of ice hockey

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Bradley Beck-Hill, 12, of the Haringey Peewees sits, all padded up to go, watching practice time on the Alexandra Palace ice rink in North London. Starting to play young gives a better chance of reaching the top in the sport

Pick up your puck and skate

Without question, ice hockey is the fastest team sport in the world. Players rake the ice at speeds of up to 35mph, while the puck can be struck, at the top level, at over 100mph. The gladiatorial atmosphere of padded players on an alien surface makes the sport a compelling one for spectators and players alike.

Like many other sports, the British claim the origins of the game as their own, although this remains contentious. Way back in 1936, Britain could claim to be the best in the world after winning the Olympic gold medal. The rival claim to its origins comes from Canada, which now shares with the United States the familiar high-intensity leagues, salaries and frenzied fans.

British ice hockey is not at that level, but it is getting there. The sport has grown enormously in popularity and more importantly, in terms of ability. The senior Great Britain men's team is ranked around 16th of the 52 affiliated countries in the world .

Sponsorship from Benson & Hedges and Heineken has ensured huge numbers of spectators and an extremely competitive national league. In 1994, over 1.3 million spectators watched ice hockey in Britain. The top premier-division clubs such as Fife, Edinburgh, Basingstoke, Cardiff, Whitley and Sheffield, which has an 8000 all-seater arena, regularly attract large crowds. Nottingham Panthers, winners of the Benson & Hedges Cup Final last month have, according to a British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) official, "enjoyed a sell-out crowd of 2800 spectators at Nottingham Ice Rink for every game since the side were formed 14 years ago."

The B&H final itself attracted 8000 spectators, with the passionate encounter, as *The Times* reported, accompanied by the opening bars of Bach's Toccata and Fugue and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana, then hot dogs, cold legs, popcorn and canned drinks — and all the American-inspired razzmatazz.

Of the 7,500 players registered with the BIHA, 3000 are seniors playing in men's leagues. The league is spearheaded by a British premier division and a division one. There are separate lower divisions for Scotland and England.

The larger clubs in the country have women's teams, and increasingly, junior sides. There are junior sides, some with leagues, for those under ten, 12, 14, 16, 19 and 21. Great Britain also competes internationally, at under 21, 19, 16 levels, and in women's ice hockey.

Nationwide, almost 400 teams at 60 clubs play at ice rinks, of which 40 reach international playing standards. Almost half of those who play the game are juniors (under 19).

According to BIHA figures, numbers of people taking up the sport are growing by 7.5 per cent annually. David Pickles, general secretary of the BIHA, says: "There is so much skill involved at the top level, that it is better take it up at a young age." That is why so many youngsters are now getting involved. It takes about ten years to get from the bottom to Premiership standard.

Stephen Lyle, 15, who has been playing for Cardiff Devils, epitomises the influx of youngsters into the sport. "The younger the better, but that's not to say that seniors are in any way discouraged from taking up the sport," he says.

Many of the country's clubs offer coaching facilities to learn to skate before stick and puck meet. Experienced players regularly practise general skating to increase skills, fitness and stamina.

Recreational ice hockey is also popular with teams across Britain. There is no league format, only 'friendlies' by challenge. Nonetheless, it is still taken seriously.

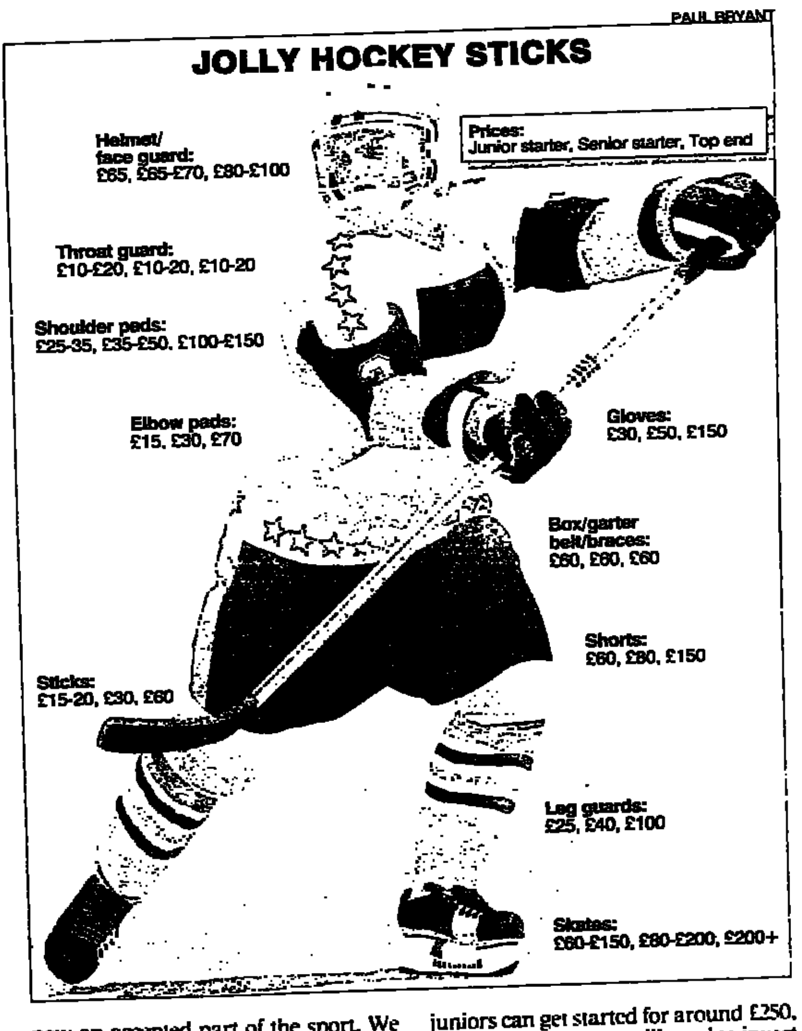
"Make inquiries at your local ice rink," says Ron Christison, administrator for recreational ice hockey, oraganised by the English and the Scottish Ice Hockey Associations. "There is bound to be a local rink in your vicinity. Recreational ice hockey is now an accepted part of the sport. We play non-league matches 52 weeks of the year. Bear in mind, however, that team practice often takes place late at night." Such recreational teams are often made up of men and women.

Personal safety, through the correct equipment, is extremely important. Although full kits can be expensive , juniors can get started for around £250, while senior starters will need to invest £350 to keep themselves well cushioned. Finally, the 64,000 dollar question: is ice hockey a sport for all?

It is certainly no holiday on ice but once kitted-out, revved-up, psyched-in and padded up to the eyeballs, it's an enticing game.

PAUL BRYANT

JOLLY HOCKEY STICKS


Prices:
Junior starter, Senior starter, Top end
Helmet/ face guard: £65, £65-£70, £80-£100
Throat guard: £10-£20, £10-20, £10-20
Shoulder pads: £25-35, £35-£50, £100-£150
Elbow pads: £15, £30, £70
Gloves: £30, £50, £150
Box/garter belt/braces: £60, £80, £60
Shorts: £60, £80, £150
Sticks: £15-20, £30, £60
Leg guards: £25, £40, £100
Skates: £60-£150, £80-£200, £200+

SPORT FOR ALL

Here are some indicators for those who have shared the excitement of player and puck blurring across the TV screen, only to be left confused by what and who goes where:

- ● An ice-hockey match is played over three 20-minute periods.
- ● Six players from each team are allowed on to the ice at any one time, though squads usually number 20. Substitutions are made willy-nilly.
- ● The object, of course, is to get the puck — a frozen piece of vulcanised rubber — into your opponents' net, by hook, crook or stick.
- ● Apart from the net-minder — who bears an uncanny resemblance to the Michelin Man and shares many of the rubberman's occupational hazards, such as danger from flying debris and being rolled over by fast-moving traffic, the on-ice team normally comprises two defenders and three forwards.

Christopher Stewart

Christopher Stewart, 14, is a goal-minder for a junior side at Nottingham Panthers.

"I HAVE been playing for three months, although I have been practising at general skating for seven months. I have always played in goal, in football, at Nottingham Forest and Notts County and in field hockey. But being in goal in ice hockey is different from any other sport.

"All the armour is very heavy. It is a bit like wearing cricket pads on your arms and legs, plus, with a stick, it is quite difficult to move around. As a net-minder, the emphasis is on skating from side to side, which is a real skill.

"The full kit for a net-minder is quite expensive, but the junior side at Nottingham have been very helpful by supplying some of the kit. Having just started the sport, I find it physically exhausting. Whereas the players come on and off in shifts, as a net-minder, you are on the ice for most of the three 20-minute periods during a match.

"I train twice a week as well as matches but I still have to maintain my general skating once a week. I am on ice normally about eight hours a week.

"Ice hockey is much faster than any game I have ever played. It is enjoyable and very competitive. But it is not violent.

"Sometimes there is a bit of friction between players on the ice, but with all the padding no one comes to much harm. In fact, I've had more injuries playing football.

"It is great to see Stephen Lyle, who is only 15, playing as net-minder for Cardiff Devils in the Premier Division. For him to be playing with men twice his age is amazing. It takes guts when that puck starts flying at you.

"I now follow the game very closely. My only regret so far was not being able to get a ticket for the Benson and Hedges Cup Final. I'd love to have been there."

Deborah Auty

Deborah Auty, who skated recreationally for 15 years, has been playing ice hockey for Slough Phantoms in the women's premier division since September. At 32, she is challenging the conventional idea that in ice hockey you have to start young.

"I HAD been interested in ice hockey for years though I had followed the sport solely as a spectator. Years ago there didn't seem to be any women's teams.

"I skate recreationally six hours a week. One evening, when I was skating at Slough ice rink, one of the girls from the Slough Phantoms approached me and asked me if I had ever thought about playing.

"Intrigued, I went along to a practice session on a Saturday evening — midnight in fact, since training takes place after general skating hours — where the coach had a look at my skating ability and then lent me a stick and gloves. I felt very vulnerable at first, and even though there is no 'bodychecking' in women's hockey, it is still physical. Seeing how fast the puck travels soon made me aware that I could easily get hurt.

"I found there were immediate differences: in general skating you go in one direction. Ice hockey is backwards, forwards, sideways, the lot.

"I weighed it up for two weeks after that. Then I tried to get hold of a second-hand kit. There was nothing anywhere. I knew that if I was going on again I would have to be kitted out. So I spent £350 to get started.

"The protective armour made all the difference. Without a doubt, skating with kit on, you take more chances. Now I love it. It is so fast, it is thrilling. I just wish I had taken it up when I was younger. I know there is a woman playing competitively in the United States who is 51, so in my mind, I have got another 20 years of playing ahead of me yet."

Peter Sommer, 24, tells of an adventure which involved taking Britain's most popular hobby, walking, to extremes

A saunter through ancient Turkey

It all stemmed from an old photograph of towering mountains enveloping a verdant river valley, through which Alexander the Great allegedly passed 2,300 years ago. Like the photographer, the explorer Sir Aurel Stein, I longed to wander in the depths of Asia in search of clues to the ancient past.

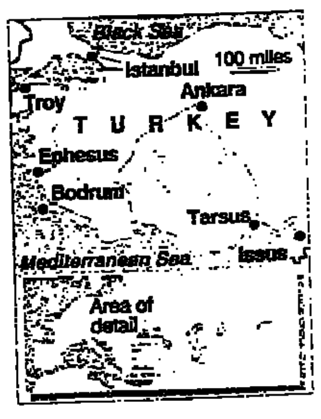
I had become fascinated by the character of Alexander while studying for a degree in Ancient History and Archeology. Who could not be intrigued by a man who inspired his soldiers to follow him for 12 years, beyond the known ends of the earth? They marched some 14,000 miles: from Greece to India and back to Babylon, before the Macedonian king died at the age of 32 in 323 BC.

I decided to organise an expedition in an attempt to retrace his footsteps from the city of Troy to the site of the Battle of Issus. I wanted to see exactly where an ancient army could have passed, and where topography and lack of water would have made it too difficult.

It took Alexander and his 40,000 soldiers eighteen months to reach Issus. By refraining from fighting battles and beseiging towns, I managed to do the walk in four and a half months, covering about fifteen miles a day.

I am always animated by a physical challenge, but felt daunted by this journey which dwarfed my previous walking best of four wet days along Hadrian's Wall. A knee injury had hampered my training, but I did manage one hike with a rucksack — a fifteen-mile trek in the Peak district on a windy, but beautifully crisp, day that was enough to fill me with optimism.

Peter Sommer with crook



I began at the site of Troy, took a sharp turn north to Granicus, near present-day Biga, where Alexander dealt his first blow to the Persian armies and finished up, four pairs of boots later, in the eastern Mediterranean port of Iskenderun (the ancient Alexandretta), where the battle of Issus took place in 333 BC.

While Alexander's armies lived off the land, I lived off the generosity of villagers on my route. If I had stopped everywhere I was offered hospitality it would have taken me two years.

The men of villages I arrived at would gaze at me from their sedentary position at the coffee shop. They knew all about Alexander, and would dispatch me in the right direction armed with their knowledge of the local ruins and terrain.

There was a moment of despair near the modern resort town of Antalya where the trail became obscured by the tourist development along the Mediterranean sea. I headed inland towards Ankara to imitate the sweep of the army through central Anatolia.

By the end I was averaging 20 miles a day and had acquired a certain legendary status, earning the name of Coban, the Turkish for shepherd, because of the crook I carried. In addition my walk had raised several thousand pounds for SCOPE (previously the Spastics Society). I had been inspired to raise money for this charity by a friend who suffers from cerebral palsy.

Organising the expedition had been a massive challenge: my life becoming a chaotic quest for funding, equipment, and publicity, even with the patronage of Michael Wood, the television historian, and Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer.

صكا من الاهل

Wasps increase threat of relegation for London rivals with comfortable victory

Greenstock finishes off spirited Harlequins

Wasps	25
Harlequins	7

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE quivering beneath the feet of Harlequins is that of the *trapdoor which could plummet* them into the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship. Defeat at Sudbury on Saturday was not unexpected but the combination of results elsewhere has left only Northampton below them in the table. The one relief is that this season — as a concession to World Cup "pressures" — only one club is relegated.

Anyone who confides that either club is "too good to go down" needs their head examining. West Hartlepool, like *Harlequins, have collected* only seven league points but are acquiring a nasty home bite. Harlequins and Northampton must visit them and there is a certain irony in the fact that two of West's better but apparently discontented players, Mick Watson and Simon Mitchell, have transferred *their loyalties* to Harlequins.

Of their remaining seven league matches, Harlequins have home advantage for only three, of which one is against Bath. Northampton at least have both Bath and Leicester out of the way now and, should they visit the Stoop *Memorial* Ground on March 25 and win, then April will be a dogfight.

The curiosity on Saturday was that Harlequins, robbed by unavailability, illness and injury of nine first choices and of a tenth, Troy Coker, by the long-range edict of the Australian Rugby Union (ARU), played with commendable spirit to restrict Wasps to only three tries. Indeed, had they structured a plan to use their lineout advantage to better effect, they might have gone closer, if only through penalties, but in the second half they *mistakenly took a page from* the Wasps book and ran everything, even out of deep defence.

Coker was actually named among the replacements but withdrew because the ARU requires *World Cup squad* players not to appear in competitive games overseas. Coker, ambitious to appear in a third World Cup and with the utilitarian back-five skills to do so, is saving himself for Queensland's state programme.

In his absence, the Harle*quins pack covered itself in* glory; over the last two years Chris Sheasby has cast off the playboy image that was attached to his game and no player worked harder, with or without the body harness that he doffed just after the interval. In the wake of the "reinforced" South Africans of the *autumn, that was another* instructive intervention by John Pearson, the referee.

The South Africans attracted much criticism for the supporting equipment with which they festooned their upper bodies. The law allows only such padding as can be incorporated into the rugby *shirt itself and both Sheasby* and Rory Jenkins were required to remove independent harnesses during the game.

DES JENSON

Simon Hunter, the Wasps wing, proves to be a handful for two Harlequins defenders in the Courage Clubs Championship match

As it was, Sheasby and his two flankers tackled so well and put such pressure on the Wasps ball carriers that the home side's fluid game, which requires accuracy in the pass and good ball retention, became unhinged at critical times. Such were the holes that Damian Hopley smashed in the midfield that it seemed almost impossible that Wasps should not run away with the game, *but Harlequins' concession* of only one second-half try confirms they did not.

Their two first-half tries came from Nick Greenstock, who has had coaches at various representative levels purring this season. Although played here on the wing, Greenstock's preference is for centre, where he has been picked for England's under-21, emerging players and A teams this season.

"Both Nick and Damian [Hopley] are ambitious players who have come on very *well this season," Rob Smith,* the Wasps coach, said, explaining the reasons for switching the pair between centre and wing (Hopley appears on the wing, alongside Greenstock, for England A in Dublin on Friday). The utility aspect of the game can be fraught with danger, however, as can the demands of different national squads on young players. "We have to keep an eye on how much they are playing because young players tend to get hammered into the ground rather than getting *the chance to develop properly,*" Smith said.

Greenstock, for example, has played only four league games this season because of an ankle injury from which he was tempted to return too quickly, in the hope of raising his representative profile. Two tries now did that for him, the first finishing a blind-side attack by Ryan and Bates, the second a run-in after Hopley had demolished the defence.

Both came after Mensah had scored for Harlequins in his first league game since he *badly damaged his knee* against Bristol in September. Sadly, he did not complete the game, a hamstring injury forcing him off two minutes before another thrust by Hopley led to Greenstock setting up another promising young player, Ufton, for the try. These are players blooming early; Harlequins, forced by circumstances to draw deeply on their reserves, may yet find too late that they have the same.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tries: Greenstock (2), Ufton. Conversions: Gregory (2). Penalty goals: Gregory (2). Harlequins: Try: Mensah. Conversion: Staples.

WASPS: J Ufton; N Greenstock, G Childs, D Hopley, S Hunter; G Gregory, S Bates; N Popplewell, P Delaney, J Probyn, L Dallaglio, R Kinsey, M Greenwood, C Wilkins, D Ryan

HARLEQUINS: J Staples; P Mensah, R Osman, J Keyter, S Bromley; C Wright, R Kitchin; S Brown, J Hamilton-Smith, A Mullins, M Pepper, I Desmond, W Davison, R Jenkins, C Sheasby. Mensah replaced by R Glenister (68min).

Referee: J Pearson (Durham).

Bristol's captain moved to invoke D-notice

Sale	21
Bristol	9

By Christopher Irvine

DAVE ALRED, just back from teaching Australians the science of goal-kicking, *watched this tale of two stand*-off halves with one eye on his Bristol charge, Mark Tainton, and the other drawn uncontrollably to Paul Turner.

Where would Sale be without their mercurial Welsh player-coach? *Maybe not in* fifth place. He can also kick with both feet, badly in Alred's expert opinion. But Turner's real forte is the sleight of hand to which Bristol could find no answer on Saturday.

"It's amazing that a player with oodles of natural talent should be so technically inept *in* the kicking department," Alred said. Four successes from nine goal attempts was a poor return, yet, at 35, Turner is probably too old to learn new tricks.

Tainton, in spite of taking his penalty-goal tally to a record 42 for the league season, had few other reasons to celebrate after his 200th appearance for the club.

Although showing himself a sweet striker of the dead ball, Tainton's inability to find touch put Bristol under desperate pressure. In coming off *his mark* too quickly, *he fell* for Turner's dummy at a scrum and Stocks went *through the gap to put the tin*-lid on a fourth victory by Sale. With their next three games against lower opposition, respectability rather than mere survival is possible.

Bristol's problems went deeper than the absence of Kyran Bracken at scrum half. Desperate, dreadful and diabolical was the summing-up of Derek Eves, before the captain ran out of D words.

Whereas against Bath the previous week Bristol never looked like scoring a try but kept trying, the ghost was given up once Mallinder had burst over on the blind side just before half-time.

Bristol's woeful lack of imagination — they have managed just two tries away from *home — contrasted with the* customary Turner-inspired adventure that Sale have supplemented with forward steel. Neil Ashurst was in the van of an attacking back row that smothered Bristol's stuttering attempts to breach the gain-line.

The consistently excellent *Baldwin did* a fine containment job alongside Fowler in the Sale lineout on the twin *towers, Shaw and Blackmore.* Vyvyan, the No 8, ran Patten and Eves ragged, and the Manchester-born New Zealand wing, Chris Yates, with a series of blockbusting runs down the left, signalled the arrival of another exciting talent at Heywood Road.

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Mallinder, Stocks. Conversion: Turner. Penalty goals: Turner (3). Bristol: Penalty goals: Tainton (3).

SALE: J Mallinder; M Appleson, J Baxendell, G Stocks, C Yates; P Turner, C Saverimutto; P Smith, S Diamond, A Smith, D Erskine, J Fowler, D Baldwin, N Ashurst, C Vyvyan.

BRISTOL: P Hull; G Sharp, R Knibbs, N Matthews, D John; M Tainton, M Chudleigh; A Sharp, M Regan, D Hinkins, R Armstrong, S Shaw, A Blackmore, D Eves, I Patten. Sharp replaced by A Lathrope, 52min.

Referee: N Cousins (London).

Full results and league tables ...... Page 30

Scott sees red over first card

Leicester	29
Orrell	*19*

By Bryan Stiles

A SCOTLAND international will carry the burden of being the first player to receive a red card in the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship under the newly-introduced English system for policing foul play. Martin Scott, the Orrell hooker, was dismissed by Tony Spreadbury, the referee, after a ruck broke up in anger in the second half.

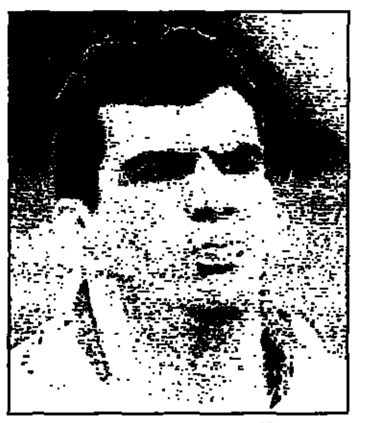
Spreadbury had no doubt that *Scott was to blame. "He went down* and put two knees into the small of the back of a Leicester player," he said. "It could have been very severe."

Scott, who won a Scotland cap against Australia in 1992, will receive an automatic four-week suspension and has already been removed from the Scotland A team *for whom he was going to play* against France A in Glasgow on Friday.

He said that his sending-off, the first of his career, had shocked him and he denied kneeing an opponent. Oscar Wingham, claiming he was *trying to turn the player in order to* secure the ball. It had been his league debut for Orrell, having joined them from Dunfermline.

Two other players had been shown yellow cards earlier — John Russell, the Orrell prop, for raking in the twentieth minute and Graham Rowntree, the Leicester prop, for illegal use of the boot in the thirtieth. Orrell are clearly not good card players; they collected two yellows when the system was introduced the previous week.

It had not been a violent game, with both sides producing some enterprising play. The forward charges were, however, often ferocious and the tackling was, in the main, of the bone-crunching variety. Leicester won by two goals and five penalty goals to a goal, a try and three penalty goals to stay two points behind Bath, the league *leaders. They also equalled their* club record, set in the 1902-03 season, of 21 successive home wins.


Johnson: commanding

Dean Richards, that pillar of their back row, having pulled out with influenza, Martin Johnson took over the Leicester captaincy for the first time and celebrated by having another commanding game.

Leicester always looked the better-organised team even though, in Dewi Morris, Orrell had the man of the match. He opened their scoring with a fine try *but* Leicester led 16-5 at half-time through a try by Kilford and Harris's kicking.

The score had reached 22-8 before Orrell were revived by a Naylor try and Langford's boot. But a push-over try from Tarbuck, converted by *Harris, who picked up 19 points* altogether, finally finished off the visitors.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Kilford, Tarbuck. Conversions: Harris (2). Penalty goals: Harris (5). Orrell: Tries: Morris, Naylor. Penalty goals: Langford (3)

LEICESTER: W Kilford; S Hackney, S Potter, D Edwards, A McAdam; J Harris, A Kardooni; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, O Wingham, M Poole, M Johnson, N Back, C Tarbuck.

ORRELL: S Langford; J Naylor, I Wynn, P Johnson, A Healey; P Hamer, D Morris; P Winstanley, M Scott, J Russell, D Cleary, C Cusani, C Brierley, J Huxley, S Bibby

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset)

Bath flattered by late burst

Bath	26
Northampton	*6*

By Peter Bills

NOT until Tony Swift scuttled into the left corner of the Recreation Ground for his 157th try for the club could Bath be certain of a victory most had regarded as inevitable.

With only 11 minutes remaining, Northampton had restricted the Courage League champions to a slender 12-6 advantage. Those first *69 minutes gave the struggling* Midlands club encouragement for the remainder of the season.

But should *Northampton read so* much into that evidence? I would suggest not. While it could be argued that they sustained a spirited team performance which surprised Bath, the Midlanders would be deluding themselves if they felt *they had been near Bath's equal.*

Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, had said all week that the match would be a *test of his side's attitude,* with many other distractions, and he was right. Bath did enough to secure two more league points, but no more. Their concentration ebbed and flowed.

There was rarely any sustained *forward driving or penetration* behind the scrum, despite the liveliness of their new scrum half, Olsen. Northampton offered a workmanlike display which contained Bath for long periods. But in terms of creativity and attacking thrust they *showed little.*

Their perilous league placing is not misleading. They are a side without the quality needed at this level. Beal did his best but a blanket of moderation covered the rest. Clarke's loss through concussion with 20 minutes to go forced Hynes to hook. But it was the inspiration of Rodber and Bayfield that was most missed.

Bath scored 14 points through two converted tries in the final 11 minutes. But before that, Callard had missed two simple penalties, one in front of the posts, and Guscott, of all people, had squan*dered a try he would normally* score in his sleep. The break he made for the opening, after 54 minutes, came from a standing start and was described by Ashton as "the finest break I've seen from a back in three years".

Swift: decisive score

The defence had been ruptured single-handed by the time Guscott reached the final defender, with de *Glanville and Swift* unmarked outside him, 15 yards from the Northampton line. But passing in such *circumstances clearly seemed too* predictable for the England genius. He tried to dummy and score himself only to be caught on the line.

Geoghegan, forever voracious in his appetite for work, scored the other try from Olsen's free kick. But Bath were weary mentally long before they were physically done.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Swift, Geoghegan. Conversions: Callard (2). Penalty goals: Callard (4). Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson (2).

BATH: J Callard; A Swift, P de Glanville, J Guscott, S Geoghegan; R Butland, M Olsen; D Hilton, G Adams, J Mallett, J Hall, M Haag, N Redman, A Robinson, S Ojomoh.

NORTHAMPTON: N Beal; C Moir, F Packman, M Allen, H Thorneycroft; P Grayson, B Taylor; M Hynes, A Clarke, M Lewis, J Cassell, G Webster, J Phillips, B Pountney, G Seely. A Gallagher *temporary replacement for Thorneycroft (40min);* Clarke replaced by M Volland (60), Cassell replaced by S Foale (70).

Fallen giants living in fear

Moseley	11
Wakefield	16

By John Hopkins

AT HALF-TIME at the Reddings it was possible to close your eyes and imagine you *were back in Moseley's prime.* Floodlights illuminated the distinguished old ground, the scene of so many famous matches. There was an air of expectancy, feet were stamped on the wooden floor of the *stand and it seemed all you* could hear were thick Brummie accents.

Sadly, though, Moseley are not what they used to be. There were many empty seats in the stand, which would not have been the case *in the* golden years. The reason is that the club is sliding downwards and is now dangerously near the bottom of the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

Wakefield, on the other hand, are still light-headed after victory over Gloucester in the Pilkington Cup. This victory by *Wakefield means* that Moseley have won only eight points from 11 games. Although that is four more than Coventry, the bottom club and favourites to drop to *the third division,* Moseley still live in trepidation.

Club officials are finding that when things start to go wrong, they really go wrong. Kicks, which in other, better, times would curl inside a post, *now bend past the outside or,* worse still, hit an upright. Tries are disallowed. In a 50-50 situation the advantage goes to the other side.

"We have lost a lot of forwards and we are strug*gling to hang on to the good* young players we have," Nigel Morris, a genial, welcoming figure at Moseley for several decades, said.

There are times when it seems that nothing more can go wrong — and then it does. The first team hooker was injured before the game against Saracens nine days ago. No problem. The reserve hooker would be drafted in. The trouble was, he was not fit. All right then, what about the third-choice hooker? He was not available. The result was that Moseley faced the *leaders of the second division* with a teenage hooker, their fourth choice. As it happened, he played well, as he did again on Saturday but, within a few minutes against Wakefield, it had happened again.

Chris Dossett, the Moseley full back, was over-ambitious near his own line, found himself having to kick when he did not want to and missed touch. Wakefield ran the ball *and with an overlap set up a* soft try for Richard Thompson.

In a way that was the story of the game. Wakefield led by seven points, then ten, before Moseley began to claw their *way back by playing as well as* they can. And they can play well as their loss to Northampton in the Cup by only 16-6 suggests.

There is no self-pity or lack of determination at Moseley. Morris was philosophical at the final whistle. "We didn't deserve to win," he said. "But we don't deserve to go down. We are too good for that."

SCORERS: Moseley: Try: Anderson. Penalty goals: Carr (2). Wakefield: Try: Thompson. Conversion: Jackson. Penalty goals: Jackson (3)

MOSELEY: C Dossett; E Anderson, A Kerr, J Bonney, D Payne; M Birch, G Becconsall; R Fuller, S Caley, N Webber, N Mann, G Watson, M Bright, B Robinson, S Owen.

WAKEFIELD: M Jackson, P White, P Maynard, A Metcalfe, R Thompson; R Petyt, D Scully; R Latham, T Garnett, A Day, N Green, S Croft, P Stewart, K Yates, M Sowerby

Referee: C Harrison (East Midlands)

Sharp's back injury helps Hilton to cap

WHILE *the* English *and* Welsh camps worried that flu might deplete their ranks before next weekend's five nations' championship matches, Scotland know they will be without Alan Sharp, *the Bristol prop, for Saturday's* meeting with Canada at Murrayfield (David Hands writes).

Sharp left the field during Bristol's defeat by Sale after heavy bruising in the area of *the prolapsed disc which has* been troubling him. The Scottish selectors have replaced him with Bath's David Hilton, the butcher from Bristol, who wins his first cap.

It was *only last autumn* that Hilton took up his Scottish qualification, appearing for the Scottish Exiles and in two A internationals, against the South Africans and Italy. Ironically, Hilton, 24, only left Bristol for Bath in 1992 when Sharp returned to the club from a flirtation with Clifton.

England, who open the championship against Ireland at Lansdowne Road, are *hoping the two Leicester* forwards, Dean Richards and Martin Johnson, will be fit. Richards withdrew from his club's match against Orrell with flu but hopes to have shaken it off by Wed*nesday, when England re*assemble.

Yesterday, at Twickenham, Jack Rowell, the manager, was more concerned that Johnson's recurring hamstring problem would affect *one of his key lineout* forwards.

Should neither play, then Steve Ojomoh and Simon Shaw will step up but there was guarded optimism from the management who were *happy that both props,* Jason Leonard and Victor Ubogu, completed their weekend's work unscathed and that Tony Underwood's leg injury has cleared up.

Wales, who play France in Paris, will hope for similar fortune when they train in Cardiff this evening. Neither Phil Davies nor Wayne Proctor could play this weekend because of a virulent strain of flu.

Gregory saves the day

Richmond	15
Otley	14

By Barry Trowbridge

OTLEY, who began the day in second place in the third division of the Courage Clubs *Championship,* promised little and delivered less — except for one moment of inspiration — at the Athletic Ground on Saturday, and have only themsleves to blame for failing to beat a Richmond side *devoid of try-scoring ideas.*

With only Bedford of the top five winning, the results may not ultimately affect Otley's promotion prospects, but their inability to overcome a team that had posted only one *previous league victory this* winter, and that at bottom-placed Exeter, will concern them, and was further proof that they do not perform on the road anything like the way they do at Cross Green.

Figures *will show that* Peter Rutledge, the Otley full back, normally so accurate with the boot, was successful with only three of seven kicks at goal, while John Gregory landed five of his seven for Richmond. *The facts, however, are that,* even when Otley dominated territorially in the second half, *they lacked penetration and* rarely released second-phase ball swiftly, allowing Phil Della-Savina, a shining light on a gloomy afternoon, a field day around the fringes.

Richmond's triumph at Exeter *was the result of the* domination of the lineouts by Geoff Sage and Paul Carr, and an 80-minute concentration span, which had been absent in the first half of the season, resulting in five de*feats by six points* or fewer. Both elements were evident against Otley, but it was Richmond's refusal to accept defeat which saw them home.

Otley's high point came after 16 minutes when Flint *chipped over a flat defence* and Melville won the race to the corner. A penalty goal by Rutledge on the stroke of half-time, after four failures, kept them flatteringly in touch with Gregory's three goals for Rich*mond* at the break.

After, it was a different matter. In a replica of the move that produced the try, Atkinson was only just outpaced by Greenwood when going for the corner; then, *after 51 minutes, Rutledge had* the easiest of tasks to put Otley ahead. By taking play into the *Richmond half,* Otley closed the game down and were in total control, but with ten minutes to go, Gregory struck a penalty goal from almost halfway and the atmosphere changed.

As if by command, Otley's passing began to click; and when Richmond killed the ball 40 metres out, Rutledge obliged. That should have been it; before Christmas, it probably would have been. *In* silence, Hoad's attempted dropped goal sailed left of the post: from the drop-out, Thompson secured possession.

With man and ball on the floor, Otley would not let him release . . . penalty. *Closer to* the posts this time, but never the less not easy. Enter Gregory, exit Otley.

SCORERS: Richmond: Penalty goals: Gregory (5). Otley: Try: Melville. Penalty goals: Rutledge (3).

RICHMOND: J Gregory; P Greenwood, D Elliott, M Hutton, S Brown; J Hoad, B Short; J Foster, A Cuthbert, D Sinclair, M Fitzgerald, G Sage, P Carr, P Della-Savina, D Thompson.

OTLEY: P Rutledge; S Atkinson, J Overend, J Flint, G Melville; S Hawkins, M Waddington; C Baldwin, M Barnett, S Rice, S Tipping, I Carroll, D Cook, A Hargreaves, N Hargreaves. Rutledge replaced by M Winterbottom (75min).

Referee: W Melrose (Gloucester).

مكرر عن الاصل

Wales left to regret strength of tradition

Wales Schoolboys........ 6
N Zealand Schoolboys 42

By Gerald Davies

THESE two countries have long and cherished rugby traditions. To them belongs an historical rivalry stretching back to the first decade of the century. The schoolboy connection, however, is relatively new, beginning only ten years ago. Yet in this match — the third between the teams — the customs of play, of tactics and of style, were the replica in miniature of what their seniors have been doing over so many years. Change the colour of the jerseys, even, and you could tell the tradition from which they both stem.

From scrum or lineout, from half back or three-quarter, the aim of the one was to bring the back row into play as often as possible; charge close to ruck and maul, sucking in as many of the opposition as possible. These are the practical precepts which belong to the All Black.

Wales, on the other hand, attempt to look for the spaces, preferring the use of the width of the pitch to do so. The aim is to stretch the opposition so that gaps more readily appear. A single man's talent or a combination of two or more in midfield may spring an extra surprise. Wales, traditionally, then, like speed and a bit of cunning to raise the momentum; New Zealand do so through power and body contact.

On Saturday, the power game won. For, in addition to belonging to their fathers' best tradition, these young boys were endowed with their fathers' physical condition to best exploit the way they play. They were altogether too strong for the Welsh boys who, though hungry and skilful, were too lean to withstand the heavy armoury of their opponents. Three tries in the last ten minutes confirmed the difference.

To add to Wales's misery, Dewi Coates, from Neath Tertiary College, sustained a broken vertebra in his neck but was yesterday said to be making satisfactory progress at the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Cardiff.

After Carrington and Jarvis had exchanged penalties on Saturday, Wales had their best period in the first half with some wonderful combined handling that might have achieved scores on either wing. Jarvis, who is usually a stand-off half, is clearly modelling himself on Neil Jenkins. His goalkicking technique is a mirror image of the Wales stand-off half. He had a fine game, as did Field, the No 8 and captain.

For New Zealand, Jenkins roamed confidently in the lineout and ruled his patch as if to the manner born. Tukino, his partner at lock, interpreted his role in the back-row mould and popped up everywhere as did Wilson, who was full of tireless endeavour. In the back, Carrington was prominent and amassed 17 points during the afternoon. Petelo, on the wing, was not seen often enough but had geniune speed. All in all, it was an efficient afternoon for them.

If the game ran away from Wales, it was generally a keenly-fought contest of contrasting styles. By half-time, Carrington's second penalty and Howlett's try gave New Zealand an 11-3 lead. Early in the second half Tukino sprinted away to offer Wilson a try which, with Carrington converting, gave the visiting team a lead which Wales looked unlikely to overturn.

The heavier New Zealand pack, the constant driving took its toll. Howlett's second try and Carrington's conversion was effectively the end so that, wilting under the pressure, three more tries followed by Howlett, Willis and finally a 70-yard sprint by Carrington, which he also converted.

SCORERS: Wales Schoolboys: Penalty goals: Jarvis (2). New Zealand Schoolboys: Tries: Howlett (3), Willis, Carrington, Wilson. Penalty goals: Carrington (2). Conversions: Carrington (3).

WALES SCHOOLBOYS: D Case (Neath); P Hallett (St Albans), T Davies (Neath), L Jarvis (Hawthorne), J Young (Neath); G Roberts (Treorchy), G Downes (Rhydfelen); E Fear (Llanharan), G Thomas (Llanhari), S Lee (Llanhari), M Cook (Neath), A Grabham (Glan Taf), R Edwards (Tregaron), D Coates (Neath) R Field (St David's College). Young replaced by H Thomas (Christ College, Brecon, 40min); Coates replaced by G Newman (Neath, 65).

NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLBOYS: M Carrington (King's College, Auckland); D Howlett (Auckland GS), B Miller (Kamo HS), L Macdonald (Marlborough Boys College), P Petelo (De La Salle College); G Senft (De La Salle College), B Willis (King's College, Auckland); E Morgan (Gisborne Boys HS), B Morris (King's College, Auckland), S Johnstone (Otago Boys HS), P Wilson (Otago Boys HS), P Jenkins (Rangiora HS), K Tukino (Wesley College), A Tia Tia (Wellington College), B McLeod (Gisborne Boys HS).
Referee: C Muir (SRFU).

JULIAN HERBERT

Knole provides an historic backdrop for schoolboy runners in vain pursuit of a runaway winner from Somalia representing Trinity, Croydon

Refugee leads cross-country field merry dance

By John Goodbody

IT IS a long way from the civil war in Somalia to Knole park in Kent, with its grazing deer and 15th century house where Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf liaised.

However, it was here on Saturday that Yacin Yusuf, whose family was expelled from Somalia, pattered up the muddy hills and across the bracken-covered dells to win the Knole cross-country event which had drawn entries from 37 schools.

Yusuf moved as gracefully as the deer he passed on the 5.92 miles round the park, which is still showing its scars from the devastation of the 1987 hurricane.

He barely seemed to be making contact with the ground, so light was his footfall. The 17-year-old from Trinity, Croydon also had little contact with the other runners. He was well clear after a mile and finished 1min 29sec ahead of a field of 244. His time of 32min 18sec equalled the record for the event which was first hosted by Sevenoaks School in 1973.

Yusuf is one of the most strikingly talented young runners in Britain. He was the English Schools under-17 champion at 3,000 metres last year and his ambition in 1995 is to run in either the 800 or 1,500 metres at the European junior championship.

He may have taken inspiration from the memory of the world 1,500 metres victory in Rome, in 1987, of Somalia's Abdi Bile, who surprised everyone, including Steve Cram. But his loyalty now is pledged to Britain "because Britain has given my family a chance".

Courteous and softly spoken, he admits: "I do not train much, I do not do a lot of mileage — a bit of speedwork." Kieron Cooper, the former England under-21 hockey international, who is

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

in charge of cross country at Trinity, said: "I have to force him. I have to catch him after eighth period and say to him 'Ready? Have you got your kit?' and the reply is: 'Oh, sir. Is it running this afternoon?'"

Yusuf trains best when he is pushed by Jonathan McCullum, a former Trinity boy, third in this event last year and, like the Somalian exile, a member of Croydon Harriers.

Trinity trained intensely over the Christmas holidays for this event. What, even Christmas Day? "No, but we did train on Christmas Eve." The school team even made six trips to Sevenoaks to practise on the course. However, not even this preparation and Yusuf's presence could stop Winchester from winning the team event.

Their hugely-talented squad, which has dominated most cross-country events in its age group in recent years, was fully on parade on Saturday.

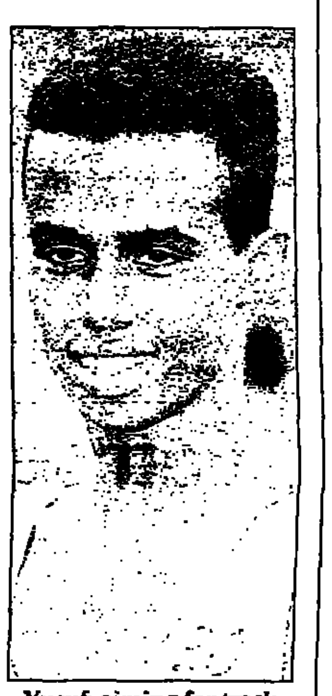
With the two masters in charge, Colin Upton and John Brooks, using mobile phones round the course to check their positions, they packed six runners into the top 32, including four in the first 11. Even their non-scoring seventh and eighth runners were 34th and 52nd.

Their best-placed competitor, in third place, was Edward Matthews, who was fourth in the 1994 English schools 1,500 metres championship. Winchester boys do only a little cross-country running before Christmas, concentrating on football, but this term they have about 40 boys representing the school in all the age groups. They train up to five times a week and on Saturday fielded two full teams, with the B squad finishing twelfth.

Upton said: "Everyone at Winchester is very positive about cross-country running. Its great advantage as a sport is that, for a highly academic school, it is not time-consuming; 30 minutes of hard exercise. The success is really down to the boys. They are a talented group and such fun to be with."

As a former scholar at Trinity, Upton could particulary appreciate Cooper's farewell remark: "We will sort out Winchester next year."

Results, page 30


Yusuf: aiming for track success for Britain

Jasper proves he is no fall guy

By Mel Webb

FALLS at crucial times prevented the two favourites in the British short-track speed skating championships at the Spectrum Centre in Guildford on Saturday from adding to their haul of titles, victory going instead to one of their less-fancied rivals.

Wilf O'Reilly, champion eight times and almost the founding father of modern British short-track skating, took his tumble in the semi-final of the 500 metres, and Nicky Gooch, the defending champion, fell over in the closing stages of the final of the same event.

Their spills left the way open for Matthew Jasper to claim overall victory with 16 points and, although Gooch recovered brilliantly to take the 1,000 metres and 1,500 metres individual titles, he could do no better than second, two points behind the winner, with O'Reilly a distant third on seven points.

This was to have been the comeback year for O'Reilly, who had not been British champion since 1991, the same year that he won his only world championship. A series of sporting and personal setbacks, including a dreadful training accident that left Monique Veldzeboer, his girlfriend and an Olympic short-track champion, paralysed from the chest down, meant that O'Reilly had the worst season of his distinguished career, and he was determined to make his presence felt again this time.

Gooch: costly tumble

That he did not he put down to a change of blades on the morning of the finals, a move that went against the conventions of the sport. But O'Reilly has never cared much for convention, although he did admit afterwards that the change had probably been the difference between victory and defeat.

"Everybody said I should not have made the change, but the radius of my blades had become sharpened out, leaving a flat surface in the middle of the blade," he said. "Although the new blades were a little better, I was still not gripping as well as I could have on the bends, and in the end that accounted for the fall."

The accident to Veldzeboer has left O'Reilly a more mellow individual, however, and ultimately he was happy enough with third place. "I did OK, I think," he said. "Don't write me off for the European championship yet — the way I'm feeling I could still win it. I'm aiming for a podium position at least."

The European event starts this week in Austria, and Jasper, 22, British champion in 1992, will go into the competition with hopes high. "I'm slightly surprised to have done it," he said. "Both Wilf and Nicky came into the championships in good form, and although I was hoping to do well, I didn't really expect to take the title again.

"Winning here does not really make up for the disappointment of not making the Olympic team last year, but it's always nice to win your national championship. I've been training hard, but came here in not particularly good form and not really knowing what to expect. It's not been an easy event, and I was slightly surprised to win the 3,000 metres, but it means that I can go to Austria with my confidence back up again."

Photograph, page 30

Grafton hat-trick decisive

By Sydney Friskin

THE elimination of Hounslow and Old Loughtonians, and the defeat of two first division clubs by non-league sides were the main features of yesterday's play in the fourth round of the Hockey Association Cup.

Old Loughtonians, from whom so much was expected, lost 1-0 at home to Stourport, for whom Harradine scored in the 19th minute from open play. Hounslow, without Potter, Thompson and Hazlitt, who were unavailable, went down 1-0 to Reading with Pablo Villar, a Spanish student from Reading University, scoring in the sixtieth minute.

The two non-league sides to gain distinction were Formby and Warwick. Formby defeated Slough 3-2 with Capper scoring twice for Formby and Bell adding the third. Both goals for Slough were scored by Maskery. Grafton netted all three goals for Warwick in the 3-2 defeat of Trojans.

Except for a scare early in the second half, Teddington, the holders, had no difficulty reaching the fifth round with a 3-1 victory at home over St Albans.

St Albans began well, but Teddington, with Billson and Gibbins posing a threat, came closer to a score. Just before the interval, Teddington struck two telling blows with Billson converting a short corner and Benzies adding the second goal after a mis-hit by Laslett.

Men's and women's cup results .... Page 30

Teddington lost the edge early in the second half, and in the 51st minute Black reduced the lead for St Albans, who, with Halliday's inspiration, began to tax the Teddington defence, calling on Meredith in goal to save from Halliday at a short corner.

An injury to Webster, at left half, destroyed St Albans' pattern of play and Laslett, following up from a shot by Benzies, made Teddington safe in the 61st minute.

Nearby, the young and skilful side from Redbridge and Ilford had problems fielding a full squad and lost 3-0 to Richmond. Four Redbridge players, who were engaged in an earlier tournament, arrived just before the interval, by which time Richmond had scored twice through Daubeney from a short corner, and Stocks, who had earlier missed a penalty stroke. Felton added the third goal in the 66th minute.

Havant and Southggate went through comfortably, Southgate with a 3-0 win over Bournville and Havant scoring twice without reply against East Grinstead. Simons (2) and Waugh were the scorers for Southgate. Giles and Pattison found the target for Havant.

Syed leads success as England get bronze

By Richard Eaton

ENGLAND scored by far the most unexpected of their successes of the past seven years when their depleted team won the bronze medal at the European Nations Cup table tennis tournament in Karlsruhe yesterday.

Victories by Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke over Damien Eloi, winner of the English Open title only a week ago, secured a surprising success against France on Saturday night, as well as a second position in their group and a place in yesterday's semi-finals against Sweden.

It was disappointing then that England lost 3-0 to the top-seeded world champions, Sweden, for whom the world No 5, Peter Karlsson, and the former world champion, Jorgen Persson, were in imperious form.

England's notable achievement had been that, without the services of either their No 1, Chen Xinhua, or their former national champion, Carl Prean, both of whom were injured, they qualified from their group by beating the Belgians 3-0 and overcoming the French 3-1.

Syed was the outstanding player, despite still suffering from the shoulder injury which caused his retirement from the English Open.

He won twice in the vital match against France, first by 18-21, 21-9, 22-20 against Christophe Legout, and then by 13-21, 21-14, 22-20 against Eloi.

Earlier England had lost their other group match to Russia, for whom the Mazunov brothers, Andrei and Dimitri, were in excellent form.

The Russians went on to cause a surprise by reaching the final, but then lost 3-1 to Sweden, who thus completed a hat-trick of European National Cup titles.

Tiny Tonga promise faith, hope and big-hearted players

By Takitoa Taumoepeau

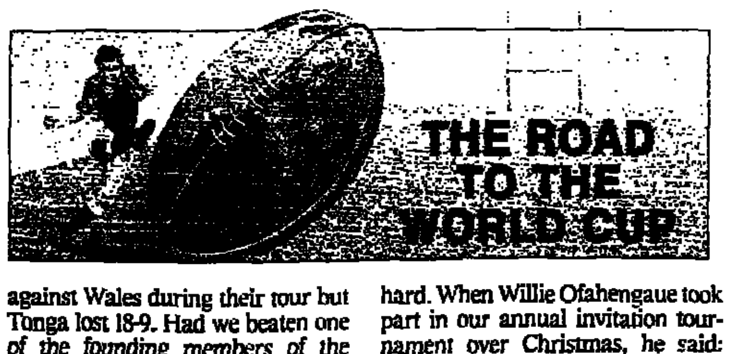
It is a happy coincidence that Tonga should have been placed in the same World Cup pool as France. The style of rugby played in the island resembles the French game and, since the same may be true of the Ivory Coast, we have a reasonable idea of what to expect from our opponents in South Africa.

Tonga have never played France but we have faced Scotland, in 1974 and in 1993 when they played two matches here during their Pacific tour and won the international 23-5.

First and foremost, however, Tongans are delighted to be in the World Cup: there was great disappointment that we were not involved in 1991 and the country turned away from the game, believing Tonga was not good enough on the world stage.

Some fine players went overseas, others retired, so it is good to be back — particularly at a time when rugby league is making moves to gain popularity in the Pacific. There are problems in our administration: our committee is selected on an annual basis and there is a lack of continuity. Most countries can commit themselves to a three-year programme, building up to successive World Cups. That, however, is difficult for Tonga.

It costs a great deal of money to bring players together and at the moment the union is some 50,000 Tongan dollars (about £24,500) in the red. Even so, we enjoy the support of the King of Tonga who has equipped the first modern gymnasium in the island — available to our national players — and 1994 was an encouraging year. Apart from beating Fiji in Suva, the crucial result in our qualification for the World Cup, we were unbeaten on a tour of New Zealand with wins over Wanganui, Manawatu and Taranaki, and a draw against Hawke's Bay.


THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP

The team was keyed up to do well against Wales during their tour but Tonga lost 18-9. Had we beaten one of the founding members of the International Board, it would have been wonderful promotion for the game. We were not helped, though, by the absence of several players in Australia and New Zealand — fortunately they were available when we played Fiji.

Tonga's style mixes parts of rugby union and rugby league — at present we are Pacific champions for both codes. We do not have many big players, so we try to play an entertaining game and we tackle hard. When Willie Ofahengaue took part in our annual invitation tournament over Christmas, he said: "This is the kind of thing I like. No-one here respects me on the field, they all want to hit me."

That tournament was good experience. Fili Finau and Daniel Manu came with Willie O from Australia and Mana Otai, David Manako and Charles Reichelmann from New Zealand, all players with top provincial experience which rubs off on our boys. Our greatest strength is probably in the production of loose forwards: Fenukitau was voted man of the match for Australian Capital Territory against Ireland last summer and Fred Mahoni is a regular flanker with Taranaki.

We have been helped in our fitness programme by Brian Worthington, who worked with the All Blacks. Yet, even though we can train players to the same fitness as the other countries, we have to sharpen their minds for the task ahead. Our build-up to South Africa includes three matches in Japan next month, followed by the Super 10 tournament.

Tonga has been drawn in the same group as Auckland, Canterbury, Queensland and the Orange Free State and we hope for a warm-up game in South Africa, so that the players can find out about the effects of altitude — none of them has played there before. When Grant Fox came to inspect our ground facilities for the Super 10, he spent some time sharing goal-kicking secrets with our kickers.

There is no main television station on Tonga but the union hopes to record matches and show them on a giant screen, so that as many people as possible can follow Tonga's progress. It is important that we do, for top rugby league has been screened a lot recently, including the Kangaroos' tour to Britain.

Some big pay cheques have been waved around and the Tongan union has been pleased to see so many of our players refusing to jump on the bandwagon.

At the moment there is huge enthusiasm for rugby — of both codes, since both are to hold their World Cups this year. But 95 per cent of the Tongan league team play overseas whereas most of our union players — even though they do not have very good jobs, in some cases no jobs — live in Tonga. And they all want to do well for their country.

Takitoa Taumoepeau is the secretary of the Tongan Rugby Union

صكنا من الاجل

Egerton greets return to form of National Hunt's record transfer

Mysilv repays first instalment

By Julian Muscat

ED BYRNE

Martha's Son, right, launches a telling challenge to Egypt Mill Prince in the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot

AMONG the plethora of competitive races run at the weekend, none yielded a more satisfactory conclusion than Mysilv's return to form in the Bromsgrove Trisport Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham.

Her bold, front-running tactics made her one of last season's most popular horses but a lacklustre comeback at Kempton suggested her efforts may have left their mark. She proved otherwise on Saturday. Her customary, dominant performance delighted her new trainer, Charlie Egerton, and elevated her to clear favouritism, at 4-1, for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury next month.

Egerton inherited Mysilv after her purchase, for 155,000 guineas, a record for a National Hunt horse, by the Elite Racing Club six months ago. Having raced for the 3,000-strong Million In Mind syndicate, she now has a further 8,000 expectant owners to satisfy. "I have felt the pressure," Egerton said yesterday, "especially the way my season has been going. The horses have had lung infections so it came as a great relief. At least I've got my head off the guillotine for a few weeks."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CLYDE RANGER
(2.20 Carlisle)
Next best: Express Gift
(2.50 Carlisle)

The five-year-old was also trimmed to 12-1 for the Champion Hurdle itself, although her trainer was realistic about her Cheltenham chance. "She still has a long way to go; she needs to improve around 14lb. We might enter her for Haydock on Saturday but the Newbury race is definitely the target. She's only got 10st 4lb."

A likely Newbury opponent is Morceli, who was in exhibition mood in the Dipper Novices' Chase at Newcastle. The seven-year-old has been impressive in two outings over birch but his trainer, Howard Johnson, indicated he would revert to hurdles for the £50,000-added prize. He is quoted at 12-1 by the sponsors.

David Nicholson, who trained Mysilv last season, was among those who savoured her return to form. "I haven't yet seen it but they say she was good, which I'm pleased about." Nicholson said. But he was less than amused with the pre-race rumours surrounding Viking Flagship, a disappointing fifth in the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot but sound on his return to the stable.

"There's nothing wrong with him at all," the trainer said. "He didn't work particularly well on Wednesday, which probably had something to do with it, but that is the horse all over. He had a tough assignment and Adrian [Maguire] wasn't hard on him." Viking Flagship remains on course for the Game Spirit Chase on Tote Gold Trophy day.

The Victor Chandler Chase was won in fine style by Martha's Son, who quickly overhauled Egypt Mill Prince after jumping the last fence for his eighth consecutive chasing victory. Typically, Tim Forster, his trainer, later admitted his reluctance to run, a sentiment he apparently shared with Michael Ward-Thomas, who bred and part-owns the progressive eight-year-old. Forster declined to commit himself on a programme for Martha's Son, but will be regretting the decision not to enter him for the Champion Chase in March.

Nicholson is to send Relkeel, his Champion Hurdle hope, to Haydock on Saturday now that Oliver Sherwood, who trains Large Action, has committed his charge to the Bishops Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham a week later. Relkeel is expected to cross swords with the reigning champion, Flakey Dove, but the Haydock highlight is the Peter Marsh Chase meeting of three live Gold Cup candidates in Jodami, Monsieur Le Cure and Raymylette.

Raymylette, fresh from a ten-day break, was reported in fine form yesterday by Charlie Morlock, assistant to the horse's trainer, Nicky Henderson. "The plan is to run on Saturday, when we should find out where we stand," Morlock said. He added that there was "no obvious reason" for the poor showing of Current Express in the Victor Chandler.

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LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	73	51	31	1	-28.51
Mrs M Reveley	62	37	25	1	+14.92
D Nicholson	62	35	24	2	+43.55
P Hobbs	54	44	29	13	-23.25
N Twiston-Davies	44	43	36	4	-41.19
K Bailey	43	37	16	2	+59.48
J White	35	32	28	16	-52.21
G Richards	29	19	16	8	-3.33
J Gifford	28	23	15	1	-9.73
G Balding	26	19	15	1	+1.70
O Sherwood	25	15	17	15	-36.27

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
R Dunwoody	111	77	60	0	-60.31
A Maguire	93	71	54	9	-62.12
N Williamson	70	58	44	5	+16.38
J Osborne	59	41	38	1	-60.91
P Niven	57	37	29	3	-19.74
D Bridgwater	48	29	32	4	+26.22
A Dobbin	43	29	28	13	-58.77
M Dwyer	42	50	26	5	-22.95
W Marston	40	21	20	8	+33.37
Peter Hobbs	32	40	18	16	-73.07
A P McCoy	29	33	21	1	+23.66

Forster trades as merchant of doom

JULIAN MUSCAT

Racing commentary

What are we to make of Captain Timothy Arthur Forster, the arch-pessimist whose sole concession to victory is a profound loathing of it? What, indeed, would be made of him away from racing's eccentric playing fields?

He is the captain who shrugs at retrieving the Ashes; the coach nonplussed by silencing the Welsh in Cardiff; the manager unmoved by victory at Old Trafford. The truth is that Forster has no parallel in any sporting arena. As he roams the racecourse with that giant, pounding stride, he could be searching for the sanctuary of Jurassic Park.

Here is the advertisement Forster would pen in recruitment of patrons (if it could ever be contemplated; which, of course, it couldn't). "Wanted: owner-breeders prepared to suffer in silence with long-established trainer. Sound horses accepted; crocks preferred. Deep-rooted ambivalence towards jumping's top prizes an advantage..."

Can you conceive of the Premiership team manager who tosses FA Cup entry forms into the fire? That is what Forster did with Martha's Son, conqueror of the best two-milers around — including the champion himself, Viking Flagship — in the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday. He would be guaranteed a place among the favourites for the Champion Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, yet was not even entered.

Martha's Son and Dublin Flyer: they are the horses of Forster's dreams. Talented? Yes, outrageously so; but that's far from the point. Both are products of National Hunt breeding, that most feckless of fickle hobbies. And what disaster has befallen their younger brothers and sisters: two siblings of Dublin Flyer, bred from a broken-down mare, were destroyed with incurable leg injuries; one more struck by lightning when out in a field.

And Martha's Son, bred from a mare with chronic back problems: two siblings before him were both put down: their wretched mother given away to a grateful local farmer. From the depths of such despair rises Forster's undying love of steeplechasing, for he has always seriously frowned upon races over hurdles.

To Forster, sending his horse to the races is like sending your favourite son to the front line. He says of Martha's Son: "He is the sweetest horse I've had in 32 years of training. You could ride him to Windsor and leave him tied up outside the shops. You could even take him into your kitchen."

He reflects on three Grand National victories, achieved through the efforts of Well To Do, Ben Nevis and Last Suspect, with undisguised horror. To his Grand National jockeys he issues the same instructions: "Just keep on remounting." He cannot watch; will not contemplate victory; cannot bear the tension in the build-up to a race.

"I convinced the owner [of Martha's Son] that we didn't want to run today," he related after the horse treated Ascot's birch with the contempt Forster shares for "those nasty, big, black fences."

If this victory suggested Martha's Son is capable of reaching the summit, Forster was having none of it. "I don't know about the Champion Chase; I don't care what happens now. As far as I'm concerned he has done it. That's all we can ever ask; he's only really a child's pony, you know."

Tongue-in-cheek it most certainly wasn't, for the words were spoken with the utmost clarity.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.00 Runforaction. 1.30 Let's Get Lost. 2.00 Everset. 2.30 Arndilly. 3.00 Hawaii Storm. 3.30 Mazilla. 4.00 Red Whirlwind.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.00 LEGALLY DELICIOUS (nap). 3.00 Polonez Prima. 3.30 Mazilla.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.00 SHETLAND SELLING STAKES
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £2,259: 1m) (13 runners)

1 06-0 POLY LANE 9 (F,S) W Muir 9-7 J Weaver 7
2 000- HAVANA MISS 66 (S) B Palling 9-2 G Duffield 1
3 3-44 RUNFORACTION 7 (C,G) B Rothwell 9-2 J Stack (5) 10
4 000- KIBOV PROTEGE 33 R Armstrong 9-0 M Rimmer 2
5 52-6 PRESTO BOY 11 (B) M Bell 9-0 M Fenton 12
6 0- RECOVERY LAD 88 K Burke 9-0 R Cochrane 3
7 ROYAL ADDICTION P Blockley 9-0 A Clark 8
8 0 SERGIO 7 M Chapman 9-0 D R McCabe (5) 13
9 45-0 VADE RETRO SATANAS 14 C Tinkler 9-0 T Ives 4
10 AISLING'S IMAGE S Norton 8-9 G Carter 5
11 4- LEGALLY DELICIOUS 55 J Banks 8-9 J Quinn 9
12 0-00 MISS SUZY 7 J Leigh 8-9 L Charnock 11
13 65-6 RISKY ROSE 7 R Hollinshead 8-9 A Garth (5) 6

3-1 Presto Boy, 4-1 Legally Delicious, Poly Lane, 5-1 Runforaction, 6-1 others.

1.30 MULL HANDICAP (£3,167: 1m 3f) (14)

1 030- LET'S GET LOST 30J (F,S) Mrs J Ramsden 6-10-0 J Weaver 12
2 04-2 ROYAL CITIZEN 10 (C,G) J Bottomley 6-9-11 G Carter 1
3 4-63 NON VINTAGE 7 (F,G) M Chapman 4-9-7 D R McCabe (5) 6
4 40-1 GREEK GOLD 18 (CD,G) G Kelly 6-9-7 Alex Greaves 4
5 20-1 TEMPERING 3 (CD,F,G) D Chapman 9-9-7 (5ex) J Quinn 8
6 /30- ATHERTON GREEN 21J (F) J Glover 5-9-6 T Ives 7
7 464- MISTER BEAT 88 (C,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-9-8 F Lynch (7) 10
8 260- IMPERIAL BID 69J (D,F,G) Denys Smith 7-9-3 C Teague (7) 2
9 54-0 PALACEGATE JO 5 (C,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-2 W Woods 11
10 455- BARTI-DDU 167 (G) S Williams 4-9-1 J Stack (5) 9
11 000- WESTFIELD MOVES 32 (CD,F,G) H Collingridge 7-8-11 M Rimmer 14
12 23-0 QUEEN OF SHANNON 4 (V,G,S) B Meehan 7-8-11 D O'Neill (7) 3
13 06-0 PERDITION 10 (F) K Burke 5-8-7 R Cochrane 5
14 /0-6 CLEAR LOOK 10 Miss H Knight 5-8-6 A Clark 13

9-2 Royal Citizen, 5-1 Tempering, 6-1 Greek Gold, Let's Get Lost, 7-1 Mister Beat, 8-1 Non Vintage, Perdition, 10-1 Atherton Green, 12-1 others.

2.00 ISLE OF SKYE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,537: 7f) (10)

1 13-2 EVERSET 12 (C,D,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-5 D Wright (3) 7
2 8- GREAT BOND 20 B McMahon 4-9-1 S Sanders (5) 6
3 010- CURIE CRUSADER 19J (G) M Dods 4-8-11 W Woods 10
4 3-25 DREAM CARRIER 12 (CD,F,G) T Barron 7-8-7 Kimberley Hart (7) 8
5 00-0 HAY DANCE 7 J Leigh 4-8-7 J Fanning 2
6 00-2 ROSINA'S FOLLY 10 J L Harris 4-8-6 R Cochrane 1
7 4-14 SUPER BENZ 7 (CD,F,G,S) F O'Mahony 9-8-6 J Stack (5) 4
8 001- MILLSOLIN 41J (C,D,G,S) R Akehurst 7-8-3 G Carter 3
9 00 ARROGANT BOY 3 D Chapman 6-8-1 C Teague (7) 5
10 0/0- BESSIE'S WILL 5 D Haydn Jones 4-8-0 A Mackay 9

4-5 Everset, 7-2 Millsolin, 4-1 Super Benz, 9-2 Dream Carrier, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%; Mrs M Reveley, 14 from 48, 29.2%; S Norton, 33 from 151, 21.9%; M Johnston, 27 from 135, 20.0%; Miss A Whitfield, 5 from 27, 18.5%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 21 winners from 117 rides, 17.9%; G Duffield, 29 from 186, 15.6%; Alex Greaves, 34 from 219, 15.5%; R Cochrane, 12 from 92, 13.0%; C Rutter, 6 from 59, 10.2%.

2.30 LUNDY HANDICAP (£3,725: 6f) (13)

1 01-1 CROFT POOL 14 (CD,G) J Glover 4-10-0 T Ives 12
2 43-5 DAWALIB 9 (C,D,G) D Haydn Jones 5-9-7 A Mackay 8
3 210- ELTON LEDGER 102 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-9-7 S Sanders (5) 5
4 634- BOURSIN 115 (D,F,G) P Calver 6-9-6 Dale Gibson 3
5 623- NORDAN RAIDER 47 (D,F,S) M Camacho 7-9-5 L Charnock 10
6 506- CRADLE DAYS 33 (F,S) R Spicer 6-9-4 J Weaver 7
7 014- ARNDILLY 16 (D,G) B Meehan 4-9-3 R Cochrane 2
8 511- FOUR OF SPADES 18 (B,D,G) W Cunningham 4-9-0 A Clark 13
9 3-66 GREEN'S BID 5 (D,G) D Chapman 5-8-7 Alex Greaves 9
10 30-6 TENOR 10 D Nicholls 4-8-3 C Rutter 11
11 32-0 NEWINGTON BUTTS 9 R Akehurst 5-7-11 J Quinn 6
12 01-2 MATTHEW DAVID 14 (CD,G) S Bowring 5-7-8 G Bardwell 4
13 02-5 AQUADO 7 (F) A Forbes 6-7-7 N Varley (5) 1

9-2 Matthew David, 5-1 Croft Pool, 6-1 Dawalib, Four Of Spades, 7-1 Nordan Raider, Arndilly, 8-1 others.

3.00 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (£3,238: 1m) (16)

1 62-2 NO SUBMISSION 10 (C,G,S) D Chapman 9-10-0 T Ives 1
2 355- POLONEZ PRIMA 37 (D,F,G) J Banks 8-9-13 J Weaver 10
3 3-56 QUEENS CONSUL 10 (CD,F,G) B Rothwell 5-9-13 J Stack (5) 13
4 00-6 TU OPES 12 (D,F,G) J L Harris 4-9-11 Dale Gibson 6
5 501- MAM'ZELLE ANGOT 21 (D,G,S) J Eyre 5-9-11 A Clark 16
6 00-2 PILLOW TALK 12 (D,F) K Burke 4-9-8 R Cochrane 15
7 20-6 BUDDY'S FRIEND 13 (CD,F,G) R Williams 7-9-8 Sarah Thompson (7) 11
8 01/ TITANIA'S DANCE 595 (G) M Bell 4-9-5 M Fenton 2
9 0-44 HAWAII STORM 6 (CD,G,S) Miss A Whitfield 7-9-4 R Painter (5) 14
10 22-1 ROAR ON TOUR 10 (B,D,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-11 S Copp (7) 7
11 4/ CHRISTIAN FLIGHT 8J S Gollings 6-8-9 J Quinn 12
12 3-01 QUINZII MARTIN 7 (C,D,G) D Haydn Jones 7-8-9 (6ex) T Williams 8
13 6/6- THE COUNTRY DANCER 227J K Ivory 5-8-2 G Duffield 4
14 0-21 GENESIS FOUR 7 (B,CD,G) S Bowring 5-8-1 C Teague (7) 9
15 01-0 TILLY OWL 3 (G) J A Harris 4-8-0 J O'Reilly 3
16 0-00 CRAFTY CRICKETER 8 R Voorspuy 4-7-7 N Adams 5

9-2 Roar On Tour, 5-1 Pillow Talk, 7-1 Quinzii Martin, 8-1 Tu Opes, Mam'zelle Angot, No Submission, Titania's Dance, 10-1 others.

3.30 SHETLAND SELLING STAKES
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £2,259. 1m) (12)

1 50-0 GO LIKECRAZY 13 (B,G,S) K Ivory 9-2 C Scally (7) 2
2 5-42 SAMANA CAY 7 (F) D Nicholls 9-2 Alex Greaves 9
3 50-5 DAILY CHALLENGER 7 R Thompson 9-0 T Williams 8
4 000- FOOLS MILLYONS 32 W Bentley 9-0 J Fanning 11
5 000- JOVALE 32 S Norton 9-0 J Stack (5) 7
6 040- RED HASSETT 47 P Blockley 9-0 A Clark 10
7 00-5 SLAPY DAM 7 Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Weaver 1
8 00-0 SWEET MATE 7 S Bowring 9-0 C Teague (7) 5
9 046- JILLY JAFFA CAKE 18 D Arbuthnot 8-9 S Whitworth 3
10 00-3 JOYFUL TIMES 7 Mrs N Macauley 8-9 S Sanders (5) 12
11 35-2 MAZILLA 13 W Haggas 8-9 W Woods 4
12 000- PRINCESS KAMINA 76 M Camacho 8-9 L Charnock 6

3-1 Mazilla, 9-2 Jilly Jaffa Cake, 5-1 Joyful Times, 6-1 Samana Cay, 10-1 others.

4.00 BARRA APPRENTICES MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£2,537: 1m 4f) (17)

1 420- RED WHIRLWIND 27 B McMath 5-10-0 V Halliday 8
2 /00- JIHAAD 21J (V) J Norton 5-9-9 Amy Gosden (7) 15
3 00-0 SHAMWARI 8 (B) J Hills 4-9-5 R Painter 4
4 506- SHAMAKA 88 J Glover 4-9-3 S Richardson (5) 10
5 /00- STROLLING MINSTREL 20J (B) B Rothwell 4-9-2 G Faulkner (5) 7
6 030- PETITE BIJOU 53J R Brotherton 4-8-11 D Griffiths 16
7 000- GRECIAN LADY 4J (B) K Burke 6-8-9 C Adamson (3) 9
8 04-6 WICKLOW BOY 13 (V) T Clement 4-8-9 S Lanigan (3) 5
9 54/ PREMIER BLUES 558 R Williams 5-8-8 Sarah Thompson (3) 1
10 0-06 COMFORTABLE 7 (E) S Gollings 5-8-8 S Copp 3
11 00-4 CELESTIAL FAITH 11 M Johnston 4-8-7 Oliver Casey (3) 2
12 0/6- BOROCAY 374 M Camacho 7-8-6 G Parkin 13
13 /00- FLYING IMP 325 R Hollinshead 4-8-6 A Eddery (5) 17
14 000- NORD LYS 86 (B) F Lee 4-8-4 Claire Balding 6
15 560- MR MORIARTY 121J S Bowring 4-8-3 C Teague 11
16 00-6 HAYDON HILL 9 P Evans 4-8-3 D O'Neill (3) 14
17 606- TUSCANIA 31J J Wharton 5-7-9 M Baird 12

9-2 Celestial Faith, 5-1 Red Whirlwind, Wicklow Boy, 7-1 Mr Moriarty, 8-1 Borocay, Petite Bijou, 10-1 Grecian Lady, 12-1 others.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

1.40 Allegan. 2.10 Rainbow Castle. 2.40 Thats The Life. 3.10 Wren Warbler. 3.40 Shamarphil. 4.10 The *Boiler White.*

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.10 COUNTRY STORE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.40 MIDDLETON NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,304: 2m 6f) (12 runners)

101 1 KAMIKAZE 79 (G) J White 5-11-12 J Railton 95
102 6412 PENNYMOOR PRINCE 14 (D,BF,S) R Frost 6-11-12 R Darke [illegible]
103 ALLEGAN 256F C Mann 6-11-6 R Dunwoody —
104 P-U BRIC LANE 18 J Poulton 8-11-6 R Rowell —
105 5 CALL ME RIVER 18 P Hedger 7-11-6 M Richards —
106 CLOCK WATCHERS J Bridger 7-11-6 D O'Sullivan —
107 650- DUNLIR 272 P Rodford 5-11-6 S Burrough 87
108 0-5P I'M IN CLOVER 45 (V) T Thomson Jones 6-11-6 M A Fitzgerald —
109 52P- IRISH TAN 234 A Aylett 8-11-6 J R Kavanagh 74
110 0 LITTLE ROWLEY 32 T Casey 6-11-6 J Osborne —
111 4P36 OXFORD QUILL 9 (S) R Curtis 8-11-6 D Morris 87
112 0 RASHLEIGH ARMS 52 O Sherwood 7-11-6 J A McCarthy —

7-4 Kamikaze, 11-4 Pennymoor Prince, 3-1 Allegan, 6-1 Rashleigh Arms, 8-1 Oxford Quill, 20-1 Little Rowley, 25-1 others.

2.10 PETER DUNCANSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY MAIDEN CHASE (£3,028: 2m 3f) (13)

201 PP CHACER'S IMP 10 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4 T Jenks (3) —
202 0002 DEAR DO 21 N Henderson 8-11-4 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
203 -332 FATHER POWER 58 P Hobbs 7-11-4 Peter Hobbs —
204 5F8P JOHN ROGER 54 H Manners 9-11-4 Mr A Charles-Jones 90
205 46-0 KETFORD BRIDGE 61 R Dickin 8-11-4 D Meredith (3) 81
206 P/ KIFUE FLATS 1027 O Sherwood 8-11-4 J Osborne —
207 0-0 LITTLE WISHFUL 28 R Dickin 7-11-4 R Bellamy —
208 -35F RAINBOW CASTLE 20 J Gifford 8-11-4 P Hide —
209 PP00 CHURCH STAR 46 J Bridger 11-10-13 D Morris —
210 2P0/ GENIE SPIRIT 628 T George 6-10-13 B Powell —
211 123/ HALE'S MELODY 632P (S) Mrs P Townsley 10-10-13 Miss Lucy Townsley (7) —
212 2-00 SUPER SARENA 67 R Frost 6-10-13 J Frost —
213 P-0 TANDEM 62 N Henderson 7-10-13 J R Kavanagh —

5-2 Father Power, 3-1 Dear Do, Rainbow Castle, 10-1 Super Sarena, 16-1 Ketford Bridge, Kifue Flats, Chacer's Imp, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Hobbs, 17 winners from 54 runners, 31.5%; Mrs L Richards, 6 from 24, 25%, Miss H Knight, 5 from 21, 23.8%; J Gifford, 31 from 147, 21.1%; J Moore, 5 from 24, 20.8%; J White, 14 from 69, 20.3%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 11 winners from 37 rides, 29.7%; J Frost, 21 from 83, 25.3%, Peter Hobbs, 19 from 90, 21.1%; P Hide, 9 from 46, 19.6%; D Morris, 19 from 100, 19.0%; E Murphy, 7 from 37, 18.9%.

2.40 SELSEY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (£2,512: 2m 3f) (11)

301 2P40 GALAGAMES 5 (B,S) R Buckler 8-12-0 G Supple (7) 88
302 4523 THATS THE LIFE 27 (F,G) T George 10-11-11 T Jenks 96
303 -31P DJEBEL PRINCE 35 (C,BF,G,S) C Egerton 8-11-0 A Procter 84
304 5F3R GREEN WALK 16 (F) R Rowe 8-10-13 P Hide 92
305 P4P1 RATHER SHARP 5 (S) C Popham 9-10-13 (6ex) D Fortt 90
306 P-33 OLD ROAD 5 (B,F,G,S) J Smith 9-10-11 G Hogan 92
307 2-43 MUSIC BOX 48 (BF,G,S) R Hodges 9-10-7 S Wynne [illegible]
308 0004 DUNKERY BEACON 14 H Howe 9-10-2 Guy Lewis 97
309 00P0 EMALLEN 48 Mrs L Jewell 7-10-0 A P McCoy —
310 0503 STAPLEFORD LADY 7 J Moore 7-10-0 L McGrath (7) 85
311 0052 BIG BAD WOLF 17 B Pearce 7-10-0 P McLoughlin —

3-1 Rather Sharp, 7-2 Thats The Life, 4-1 Djebel Prince, 6-1 others.

3.10 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,979: 2m 2f) (15)

401 43P1 COUNTRY STORE 17 (S) A Jones 6-11-5 L Harvey [illegible]
402 3-44 COXWELL QUICK STEP 10 Miss H Knight 6-10-12 R Farrant —
403 FLOW R Buckler 6-10-12 B Powell —
404 34-P KEEL ROW 56 T Thomson Jones 5-10-12 M A Fitzgerald —
405 0/8 LUDOVICIANA 9 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-10-12 R Greene —
406 006- LYRICAL SEAL 251 Miss A Whitfield 5-10-12 S McNeill —
407 00- NEARLY PERFECT 285 G Enright 7-10-12 J Railton —
408 3440 OLIVIPET 18 F Gray 6-10-12 M Crosse 81
409 -405 POLLY MINOR 41 G Enright 8-10-12 M Perrett 92
410 0- POLLYTICKLE 452 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12 T Jenks (3) —
411 0-P0 ROSIE-B 54 R Stronge 5-10-12 A P McCoy (3) —
412 -553 SANDRIFT 26 Miss H Knight 6-10-12 J Osborne 86
413 P SHIPLEY BRIDGE 17 N Henderson 6-10-12 J R Kavanagh —
414 0-05 WINDSOR FOX 7 R Rowe 5-10-12 R Dunwoody —
415 6-33 WREN WARBLER 27 O Sherwood 5-10-12 M Richards 84

3-1 Wren Warbler, 7-2 Country Store, 4-1 Coxwell Quick Step 10-1 Keel Row, Sandrift, 12-1 Shipley Bridge, 14-1 others.

3.40 HOUGHTON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,525: 3m 2f 110yd) (6)

501 PF11 JURASSIC CLASSIC 18 (CD,S) Mrs L Richards 8-12-1 M Richards 89
502 2431 NICK THE DREAMER 42 (F,G,S) W G M Turner 10-11-9 R Dunwoody 94
503 -132 CARLINGFORD LAKES 35 (BF,S) T Thomson Jones 7-11-4 M A Fitzgerald 98
504 3412 SHAMARPHIL 14 (F,S) K Bishop 9-11-4 N Williamson [illegible]
505 F6 KINVARRA 9 P Hobbs 9-11-3 Peter Hobbs —
506 -642 MR SUNNYSIDE 21 (G) R Frost 9-11-3 J Frost 72

7-4 Jurassic Classic, 11-4 Nick The Dreamer, 7-2 Carlingford Lakes, 4-1 Shamarphil, 8-1 Mr Sunnyside, 16-1 Kinvarra.

4.10 SHOPWYKE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,611: 2m 6f) (7)

601 F-46 YELLOW SPRINGS 46 (C,D,F,G,S) D Grissell 10-12-0 Peter Hobbs 97
602 3041 GROUSEMAN 33 (B,G,S) Miss H Knight 9-10-11 J Osborne 94
603 1240 THE BOILER WHITE 3 (V,D,F,S) T Thomson Jones 7-10-10 D Meade 94
604 4-11 HOBBS 56 (G) S Mellor 5-10-10 M Perrett 91
605 3-3F KAYTAK 79 (V,F,G,S) J Jenkins 8-10-9 N Williamson 98
606 1460 KARAR 9 (G,S) R Rowe 5-10-5 E Murphy [illegible]
607 3/03 RAAHIN 18 (C,F,S) S Woodman 10-10-0 S McNeill 91

9-4 Hobbs, 3-1 Grouseman, Kaytak, 6-1 Raahin, 8-1 others.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

12.20 Johnny Kelly
12.50 Provence
1.20 Sillars Stalker
1.50 Blaster Bins
2.20 Clyde Ranger
2.50 Express Gift
3.20 Kambalda Rambler
3.50 OAT COUTURE (nap)

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.20 HADRIAN'S WALL NOVICES CHASE (Div I: £3,132: 3m) (14 runners)

1 52-4211 BARNEY RUBBLE 21 (G,S) (D Whillans) D Whillans 10-11-13 B Harding (5) [illegible]
2 13 PENNINE PRIDE 21 (C,G,S) (Mrs W Beaumont) M Hammond 8-11-8 A Maguire 88
3 1/PUF ASTON COURT 21 (S) (T Batey) P Monteith 10-11-3 M Moloney —
4 U5P251/ BENGHAZI 628 (S) (A Thomson) A Thomson 11-11-3 W Marston —
5 0110-3F BRAVE BUCCANEER 52 (BF,G,S) (S O'Shea) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-3 P Niven 81
6 /464-2P CORSTON RAMBO 16 (BF) (A Lyburn) L Lungo 8-11-3 T Reed —
7 5 FORDSTOWN 21 (J Alexander) J Barclay 6-11-3 A Thornton 70
8 1114- JOHNNY KELLY 283 (S) (C Murphy) J J O'Neill 8-11-3 M Dwyer —
9 0-4 KIBBY BANK 54 (J Henderson (Co Durham)) J Johnson 6-11-3 Richard Guest 74
10 556-323 KILCOLGAN 49 (J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 8-11-3 B Storey 98
11 0/60/F- PARSON'S QUEST 300 (N Mason) N Mason 9-11-3 N Doughty —
12 3- RIVER BEE 286P (J Walby) W Reed 6-11-3 L Wyer —
13 1216/64 THISTLE MONARCH 86 (G,S) (J Gordon) G Richards 10-11-3 A Dobbin —
14 66/PP-2 WOODSTOCK LODGE 41 (A Carr) V Thompson 7-11-3 K Jones —

BETTING: 5-2 Barney Rubble, 5-1 Pennine Pride, Johnny Kelly 6-1 Brave Buccaneer, Kilcolgan, 14-1 others.

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS

BARNEY RUBBLE beat Ali's Alibi 25l in novice handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, soft); ASTON COURT (5lb better off) ridden along when fell 13th. PENNINE PRIDE beat Nun On The Run 14l in novice chase here (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. BRAVE BUCCANEER 26¼l 3rd to Leinthall Princess in novice chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. ASTON COURT tailed off when pulled up. CORSTON RAMBO, makes chase debut, neck 2nd to Maybe O'Grady in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. JOHNNY KELLY 8l 4th of 11 to Corner Boy in the grade II Sefton Novices' Hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, heavy). KILCOLGAN 22l 3rd to Ali's Alibi in novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good). THISTLE MONARCH 11¾l 4th of 7 to Ivy House in handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good).
Selection: BARNEY RUBBLE

12.50 NAWORTH NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,390: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 3-3R6 BROADWATER BOY 44 (D Sitic) M Hammond 7-11-5 Mr C Bonner (5) 79
2 00/0-P0 CLAN REEL 53 (B) (W McIntosh) R Goldie 6-11-5 K Johnson —
3 0 HOBKIRK 19 (W Amos) B Mactaggart 6-11-5 P Niven —
4 00 KITTOCHSIDE LAD 56 (Scotnorth Racing Ltd) Mrs S Austin 5-11-5 D Wilkinson 63
5 MONOKRATIC (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-11-5 J Burke (3) —
6 PROVENCE 123F (J Simpson) L Lungo 8-11-5 T Reed —
7 RUECASTLE (Mrs J Milligan) Miss M Milligan 7-11-5 J Callaghan —
8 56-06 STORMY CORAL 53 (R Green) C Parker 5-11-5 B Storey —
9 40/PF THOMAS RAND 9 (N Riddell) M Dods 6-11-5 N Doughty —
10 54/65-0 CLERIC ON BROADWAY 47 (G Orchard) Mrs A Naughton 7-11-0 Richard Guest —
11 1 GOBSMACKED 20 (S) (J Potter) G Richards 4-11-0 A Dobbin [illegible]
12 MILLIES IMAGE (M Ford) M Barnes 4-10-2 A Roche (3) —
13 WHIRLWIND ROMANCE (K Jeffery) W Kemp 4-10-2 S McDougall —

BETTING: 4-6 Gobsmacked, 3-1 Provence, 10-1 Broadwater Boy, Monokratic, 14-1 Millies Image, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BROADWATER BOY 18l 6th of 18 to Maybe O'Grady in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 7f 110yd, good). HOBKIRK 46l 8th of 17 to Noyan in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good) KITTOCHSIDE LAD 24l 7th of 16 to Queen Buzzard in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good). PROVENCE, hurdles debutant, best recent Flat run when 3¾l 5th of 14 to Captain's Guest at Newmarket (2m, good to firm). GOBSMACKED beat Golden Hello by 1½l in 18-runner juvenile hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft).
Selection: GOBSMACKED (nap)

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

1.20 HADRIAN'S WALL NOVICES CHASE (Div II: £3,132: 3m) (14 runners)

1 U142U3 THE GREEN FOOL 30 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs B Kirke) V Thompson 8-11-8 Mr M Thompson 81
2 PP/ BLITZ-FOUNTAIN 1364 (R Waters) J Johnson 9-11-3 D Waters (7) —
3 P4U-6PP BUCKWHEAT LAD 21 (B) (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-3 M Dwyer —
4 62P-12F NINFA 54 (BF,G) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 7-11-3 A Dobbin 92
5 36P0-4F PIT PONY 21 (G,S) (Mrs A Robertson) D Robertson 11-11-3 F Perratt (5) 80
6 12-60 PRIOR CONVICTION 21 (B,G) (R Johnson) G Moore 6-11-3 N Bentley —
7 000-0U3 SHEELIN LAD 21 (Roman Wall Racing) L Lungo 7-11-3 T Reed 67
8 02/120-2 SILLARS STALKER 21 (F,G,S) (Sillars Civil Eng) Mrs J Ramsden 7-11-3 R Garritty 85
9 /33232/ URON V 643 (F,S) (G Faber, P Ambler) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-3 P Niven —
10 0P-2322 BEAUCHAMP GRACE 16 (BF,S) (Mrs S Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 6-10-12 J Burke (3) [illegible]
11 43-346 EASTER OATS 21 (S) (Mrs R Goldie) R Goldie 8-10-12 K Johnson 78
12 6P-P4F5 MISS CAPULET 30 (B,G,S) (C P Racing) T Donnelly 8-10-12 T Eley (3) —
13 500/F2 NUN ON THE RUN 53 (Mrs D Cohman) J Oliver 9-10-12 M Moloney 64
14 6 SEEKING GOLD 41 (Gilry) J Barclay 6-10-12 A Thornton —

BETTING: 3-1 Ninfa, 4-1 Sillars Stalker, 5-1 Beauchamp Grace, 7-1 Nun On The Run, Uron V, Sheelin Lad, 10-1 The Green Fool, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

THE GREEN FOOL 10½l 3rd of 8 to Pims Gunner in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) NINFA 1¼l 2nd of 10 to Strong Deel in novice chase at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. SHEELIN LAD 25l and neck 3rd of 9 to Barney Rubble in novices' handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, soft). BUCKWHEAT LAD tailed off when pulled up. PIT PONY tailed off when fell 13th. SILLARS STALKER 15l 2nd of 6 to Crank Shaft in novice chase at Market Rasen (3m 4f, soft). URON V 2l 2nd of 12 to Shelton Abbey in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, heavy); April 1993 BEAUCHAMP GRACE 2½l 2nd of 9 to Countess Vavoschka in novice handicap chase at Nottingham (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft). NUN ON THE RUN 14l 2nd of 10 to Pennine Pride in novice chase here (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with EASTER OATS 30l 3rd; SHEELIN LAD hampered by loose horse and unseated rider after 8th.
Selection: NINFA

1.50 NAWORTH NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,390: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 08/4 BLASTER BINS 30 (F) (The Braw Partnership) J Johnson 7-11-5 A Maguire 67
2 0 CAROUSEL PRINCE 37 (A Saccomando) Miss M Milligan 6-11-5 J Callaghan —
3 060-332 CORSTON RACER 41 (A Lyburn) Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-5 R Murphy (7) [illegible]
4 044-554 EMERALD SEA 41 (Mrs C Alexander) J Barclay 8-11-5 A Thornton 95
5 00P JONAEM 30 (Mrs E Slack) Mrs E Slack 5-11-5 Richard Guest —
6 6-4 KNUCKLEBUSTER 39 (A Renton) R Fahey 5-11-5 L Wyer 84
7 2-5 MONY-SKIP 65 (T Hemmings) M Hammond 6-11-5 D Bentley (3) —
8 35 POINT DUTY 21 (J Henderson) M Barnes 5-11-5 G Cahill (7) 81
9 0 SANDS POINT 66 (Mrs J Bendall) C Parker 5-11-5 Mr D Parker (5) —
10 6-PP VILLAINS BRIEF 9 (J Mackrell) M Meagher 6-11-5 P Niven —
11 0-2U444 MARSDEN ROCK 21 (N Mason) N Mason 8-11-0 J Supple (5) 95
12 0 MEADOWBURN 54 (G Dance) W Reed 5-11-0 T Reed —
13 60 COPPERHURST 19 (W Kemp) W Kemp 4-10-2 S McDougall 74

BETTING: 5-2 Corston Racer, 5-1 Blaster Bins, 6-1 Knucklebuster, 8-1 Emerald Sea, Copperhurst, Point Duty, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BLASTER BINS 18½l 4th of 15 to Fox Sparrow in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). JONAEM pulled up before 2 out. CORSTON RACER 1¼l 2nd of 13 to Wee River in novice handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with EMERALD SEA (9lb better off) about 12l 4th. KNUCKLEBUSTER 29l 4th of 9 to Forbidden Time in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, heavy). MONY-SKIP 11l 5th of 13 to Uncle Keeny in National Hunt Flat race at Ayr (2m, good to soft) with SANDS POINT 12l 7th. POINT DUTY 14l 3rd of 7 to On Air in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft) on penultimate start. MARSDEN ROCK about 11¾l 4th of 13 to Titan Empress in novice handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: KNUCKLEBUSTER

2.20 HAYTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,259: 3m) (12 runners)

1 F/04215- PLENTY CRACK 382 (CD,G,S) (B Mactaggart) B Mactaggart 12-12-0 L Wyer 92
2 F1F11-1 BRACKENFIELD 70 (C,D,F,G,S) (G Faber) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-9 P Niven 97
3 U12U-12 CLYDE RANGER 20 (D,BF,G,S) (I Bray) M Hammond 8-11-6 Mr C Bonner (5) [illegible]
4 1F-U212 TORT 10 (D,G,S) (R Perkins) P Dalton 11-11-2 W Marston 98
5 3012-2P PERSIAN HOUSE 35 (C,F,G,S) (J Davenport) J Jefferson 8-11-2 M Dwyer 87
6 1314-4P ROAD BY THE RIVER 20 (D,G,S) (T McDonagh Ltd) P Cheesbrough 7-10-4 A Maguire 91
7 231U24 CEILIDH BOY 19 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Goodfellow) Mrs J Goodfellow 9-10-0 B Storey 94
8 U10-046 CAROUSEL ROCKET 2 (CD,F,G,S) M Hammond 12-10-0 D Bentley (3) 93
9 01-32U2 HUDSON BAY TRADER 31 (G,S) (P Curtis) P Beaumont 8-10-0 Mrs A Farrell 94
10 12P-304 FAST CRUISE 21 (D,G,S) (C Patel) E Owen jun 10-10-0 A Thornton 89
11 03P/5-00 BLACK SPUR 30 (CD,F,G,S) (Exors of Mr J Gibson) J Charlton 13-10-0 A Dobbin —
12 0P5P-04 MOSSIMAN 21 (Mrs C Alexander) J Barclay 7-10-0 Mr D Parker (5) —

Long handicap: Carousel Rocket 9-12, Hudson Bay Trader 9-6, Fast Cruise 9-3, Black Spur 9-3, Mossiman 7-1.

BETTING: 2-1 Brackenfield, 9-4 Clyde Ranger, 8-1 Plenty Crack, 12-1 Tort, Persian House, Road By The River, Hudson Bay Trader, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

PLENTY CRACK beat Ron Pet Ron 6l in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 4f, soft) on penultimate start in December 1993. BRACKENFIELD beat Boreen Owen 6l in handicap chase here (3m 2f, good) with HUDSON BAY TRADER (2lb better off) head 3rd. CLYDE RANGER short-head 2nd of 4 to Arthur's Minstrel in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, soft); ROAD BY THE RIVER weakening when pulled up before 8th. TORT 20l 2nd of 6 to Percy Smollett in handicap chase at Towcester (2m 6f, heavy). PERSIAN HOUSE 7l 2nd of 6 to Rouyan in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. CEILIDH BOY 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Sir Peter Lely in handicap chase at Edinburgh (3m, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: BRACKENFIELD

2.50 BRAMPTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,925: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1 05-3FF6 DOMINANT SERENADE 20 (G,S) (North Briton RC) M Hammond 6-12-0 D Bentley (3) 92
2 02-0512 HOME COUNTIES 37 (D,G,S) (Roxy Cinemas) D Moffatt 6-11-10 D J Moffatt (3) [illegible]
3 1223-11 PALACEGATE KING 9 (CD,S) (C Whillans) A Whillans 5-11-2 B Harding (5) 93
4 2F5-3F0 ABBOT OF FURNESS 60 (S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 11-10-13 A Dobbin 91
5 50P4-60 DANCE OF WORDS 49 (C,D,F,G,S) J Johnson 6-10-12 A Maguire 94
6 222153 BEND SABLE 20 (F,S) (F Storey) F Storey 5-10-8 B Storey 90
7 211222- ARAGON AYR 277 (S) (Kelso Members Lowflyers Club) P Monteith 7-10-5 M Moloney 90
8 112 EXPRESS GIFT 21 (CD,BF,G,S) (M Horner & Co) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-4 P Niven 93
9 1-564U3 ONE FOR THE POT 19 (F,G,S) (P Davies) Mrs A Naughton 10-10-3 J Burke (3) 85
10 03642F BRAMBLEBERRY 9 (S) (Hampers Racing) Mrs S Smith 6-10-2 Richard Guest 98
11 3-12126 ZAJIRA 51 (D,BF,G) (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-0 D Thomas (7) 95
12 1F0-543 MASTER OF TROY 21 (CD,BF,G,S) (Chilton Fawcett) C Parker 7-10-0 Mr D Parker (5) 87
13 3F0206 STAGS FELL 69 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Cuthbert) T Cuthbert 10-10-0 Carol Cuthbert 69

Long handicap: Zajira 9-12, Master Of Troy 9-12, Stags Fell 8-2.

BETTING: 5-2 Express Gift, 3-1 Palacegate King, 4-1 Home Counties, 6-1 Aragon Ayr, Bend Sable, 8-1 Dominant Serenade, 14-1 One For The Pot, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

HOME COUNTIES 6l 2nd to Amigos in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) with BRAMBLEBERRY (3lb better off) 15l 4th. PALACEGATE KING beat Kadastrof 2l in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft) BEND SABLE 3l and neck 3rd of 8 to Burnt Imp in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with DOMINANT SERENADE (2lb better off) 12l 6th. ARAGON AYR 3¾l 2nd to Surrey Dancer in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good) with HOME COUNTIES (2lb better off) 6l 4th, ABBOT OF FURNESS (7lb better off) 6l 5th and MASTER OF TROY (4lb better off) 14½l 9th. EXPRESS GIFT neck 2nd of 7 to Tog Cees in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). ZAJIRA 13l 2nd of 9 to Surrey Dancer in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start with BRAMBLEBERRY (3lb better off) 3l 3rd.
Selection: PALACEGATE KING

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%
J Jefferson	12	37	32.4
Mrs M Reveley	18	60	30.0
Mrs J Goodfellow	3	13	23.1
G Moore	14	69	20.3
M Hammond	19	101	18.8
G Richards	28	169	16.6

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Maguire	4	9	44.4
P Niven	29	102	28.4
N Bentley	5	21	23.8
M Dwyer	17	79	21.5
N Doughty	21	102	20.6
L Wyer	8	40	20.0

3.20 LANERCOST HANDICAP CHASE (£2,756: 2m) (11 runners)

1 3/143P-4 REJOINUS 32 (C,D,S) (C Galloway) J Eyre 10-12-0 M Dwyer 98
2 2116-3U PRECIPICE RUN 34 (C,D,BF,G,S) (Cumbrian RC) G Richards 10-11-6 A Dobbin 96
3 1123-58 KAMBALDA RAMBLER 53 (CD,S) (Mrs J Dudgeon) C Parker 11-11-4 B Storey [illegible]
4 21PFP-0 DEADLINE 3 (B,G,S) (S Chadwick) S Chadwick 12-11-2 Miss J Thurlow 95
5 114-334 THE LORRYMAN 39 (F) (J Huddleston) L Lungo 7-10-7 T Reed 92
6 F53-4F2 FUNNY OLD GAME 54 (S) (D McCune) D McCune 8-10-6 K Johnson 92
7 P26331 HIGHLY DECORATED 18 (G,S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 10-10-0 Mr L Donnelly (7) 96
8 505341 EASBY MANDRINA 21 (D,F,G,S) (A Williams) S Kettlewell 8-10-0 A Maguire 88
9 00/2F14 THOMAS THE TANK 54 (R Goldie) R Goldie 11-10-0 N Smith 85
10 /5/PP-0 CORBY KNOWE 54 (L Grant) J Barclay 9-10-0 Mr D Parker (5) —
11 P0P-6P0 LOMOND SPRINGS 59 (J Alexander) J Barclay 6-10-0 A Thornton —

Long handicap: Highly Decorated 9-11, Easby Mandrina 9-7, Thomas The Tank 9-6, Corby Knowe 7-12, Lomond Springs 7-9.

BETTING: 3-1 Precipice Run, 4-1 Funny Old Game, 5-1 Rejoinus, 7-1 Easby Mandrina, The Lorryman, 8-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

PRECIPICE RUN 12l 3rd of 6 to Terrible Gel in handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start with KAMBALDA RAMBLER (2lb better off) 12l 5th. FUNNY OLD GAME 8l 2nd of 8 to Houghton in handicap chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). HIGHLY DECORATED beat Willabelong ½l in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, soft). Previously 7l 3rd to Positive Action in handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good to soft) with THE LORRYMAN (8lb better off) 7l 4th. EASBY MANDRINA beat Dear Do neck in 8-runner novice handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: THE LORRYMAN

3.50 MILTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,828: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 25232-1 TRONCHETTO 21 (B,D,F,S) (I Dalgleish) J J O'Neill 6-11-10 P Niven 97
2 415066 CASTLE RANGER 3 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Quinn) M Barnes 8-11-9 G Cahill (7) 83
3 012-23P GREAT MAX 10 (D,S) (R Green) C Parker 6-11-8 Mr D Parker (5) 95
4 1-03F42 IT'S THE PITS 21 (B,D,G,S) (Currie Group) L Lungo 8-11-5 F Perratt (5) [illegible]
5 523240 TIGHTER BUDGET 2 (F,S) (A Slack) Mrs E Slack 8-11-0 A Maguire 98
6 265P12- SANSOOL 266 (V,C,S) (A Whillans) A Whillans 9-11-0 M Moloney 98
7 212411 MEMORABLE 21 (D,G,S) (C Barber-Lomax) J Hetherton 4-10-12 D Byrne 90
8 040-221 OAT COUTURE 20 (D,S) (Mackinnon Mills) L Lungo 7-10-10 T Reed 93
9 3-34012 DANCING DOVE 49 (F,G) (K Fraser) G Richards 7-10-9 A Dobbin 90
10 054-026 BELLS HILL LAD 41 (BF,S) (Mrs K Collins) J Barclay 8-10-0 A Thornton 95
11 1-PPUF3 WHO SIR 31 (S) (Mrs J Doyle) J J O'Neill 9-10-0 A Roche (3) 81

Long handicap: Who Sir 9-11.

BETTING: 7-2 Tronchetto, 4-1 Oat Couture, Memorable, 5-1 It's The Pits, 7-1 Dancing Dove, 8-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

TRONCHETTO beat IT'S THE PITS (13lb better off) 11l in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy). TIGHTER BUDGET best recent effort when 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Trump in handicap hurdle at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good). SANSOOL ¾l 2nd to Skircoat Green in handicap hurdle at Hexham (3m, heavy). MEMORABLE beat Manwell 4l in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). OAT COUTURE beat Banchory 13l in an 8-runner novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft) DANCING DOVE beat TIGHTER BUDGET (1lb worse off) 4l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: OAT COUTURE

BLINKERED FIRST TIME

CARLISLE: 1.20 Buckwheat Lad, Prior Conviction. 2.20 Ceilidh Boy. 3.50 It's The Pits. FONTWELL PARK: 1.40 I'm In Clover. SOUTHWELL: 3.30 Go LikeCrazy. 4.00 Jihaad.

☐ Beech Road, successful at Cheltenham on Saturday, attempts his eighth course win in a fortnight's time.

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مكرر عن الاصل

MARC ASPLAND

Nicksline leads home the field in division one of the maiden race at Tweseldown yesterday as bookmakers calculate their liabilities

Tragedy dogs historic fixture

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEEL

THE first Sunday meeting with betting, the **Garth and South Berks** at Tweseldown yesterday, could scarcely have made a more dramatic and unfortunate start. At the first fence in the first race, Sword Field fell and broke her neck.

As screens were erected, stewards diverted the runners round the obstacle to tackle the second circuit and contest a footnote in the sport's history.

The honour of being the first to command a payout by racecourse bookmakers on a Sunday was Not Quite White, ridden by Tim McCarthy. The Jenny Pidgeon-trained Milled Oats, ridden by Richard White, and Flicked Oats, the mount of Polly Curling, occupied the minor places. Not Quite White will be aimed at The Times Rising Stars qualifier at Hereford.

Pidgeon and Curling teamed up to gain quick compensation when Wild Illusion, the odds-on favourite, held the challenge of Cape Cottage to win the open by two lengths.

Jenny Pitman watched her Bilbo Baggins, trained by her sister, Amanda Bowlby start favourite for division two of the maiden. He was making rapid progress but still looked to have too much to do when falling and presenting the race to John Maxse on Tex Mex.

Successful point-to-pointers from Richard Barber's stable often go into training with Paul Nicholls, but one who has taken the reverse direction is Fantus, the winner of the Land Rover qualifier at the Army meeting on Saturday.

A chase winner for Nicholls, Fantus will return to National Hunt fences as Barber has the Cheltenham Foxhunters' in his sights. Ridden by Tim Mitchell, he held the renewed challenge of Holland House by three lengths.

Barber had been disappointed with Bond Jnr in the ladies' as he rates him the equal of Fantus at home. He ploughed through the second fence giving Polly Curling a heavy fall.

In division one of the maiden, Mike Sheppard produced an impressive winner in Now We Know. Mike Drake, his joint owner, is hoping to run him in The Times qualifier at Hereford.

Green's Van Goyen had been off the course for 2½ years with numerous injuries but, now with Christine McCarthy, and ridden by her son, Tim, he showed his class when winning a thrilling open race at the **North Norfolk**. From five out he raced alongside the unbeaten Tryfast Lad until edging three-quarters of a length ahead at the post.

Opening show, page 1
Results, page 30

Anusha corrects trainer's mistake

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

ANUSHA, mistakenly left in at the overnight forfeit stage by her trainer, Michael Hourigan, landed a surprise win in The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle, at Leopardstown on Saturday. She stayed on strongly to beat Derrymoyle and the heavily-supported favourite, Cockney Lad.

Kadastrof fared the better of the British-trained runners, finishing sixth, eight places ahead of Fatack. Kadastrof will now go for the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury next month and his trainer, Robin Dickin, said: "He'd have preferred a stronger pace and we'll allow him to bowl along at Newbury."

Fatack's jockey, Sean Curran, said: "It was too sharp for him. He is a 2½-mile horse and he couldn't quicken going into the second last."

Anusha won four races on the Flat for Jack Berry before being bought for £9,000 by Graham Hoggard, a Surrey businessman. After a brief spell with Richard Rowe, Hoggard transferred the mare to Michael Hourigan, who was winning his first Ladbroke.

Hourigan said: "There was a doubt about Anusha until yesterday morning, when her owner arrived in Ireland. I asked him whether we would run and he decided to go ahead as the entry fees had already been paid. Our horses make fools of us."

The winning jockey, Shane Broderick, has been compared to Adrian Maguire by Hourigan, who moulded both their early careers. Broderick said: "I did not think she had any chance as the ground had gone against her, but when I switched at the last she really ran on."

Cockney Lad, backed down to 9-4, faded into third after looking the winner two out. His rider, Paul Carberry, said: "Being on the outside did not help as I had to keep taking him back into the field. Two out I thought I would win but he was empty going to the last."

Old foes retain firm feelings

CLEMENT FREUD

Afterthoughts

Sky Sports beamed the first Old Firm encounter of the new year live from Ibrox Park; then a couple of days later they beamed it again, the way they do. The score remained a consistent 1-1; the crowd in what is arguably the finest British football stadium was almost 46,000 and I thought back to January 1969 when Celtic were still a power in the land and Plymouth supporters — by virtue of Celtic being the only other UK club in green and white jerseys — could lend support without new scarves.

Ibrox was not then one of the ultimate pleasure dromes. It was a functional park offering accommodation for 80,000, provided 70,000 stood up. When it rained, 50,000 got wet, but for Old Firm matches there was something for everyone: the contests had the broad appeal of fertility rites with religious and sociological overtones, also opportunity for arsonists.

It was a high day for the police and there was in attendance a specially selected platoon of stretcher bearers trained to race along the sidelines (often passing a wing forward in full flight) as they took their latest offering to the pride of ambulances outside.

Most folk can tell you how many Rangers-Celtic encounters they have witnessed; everyone remembers the day their father/uncle/brother/son was hospitalised after an Old Firm encounter.

What I remember best about the match was that 20 minutes after the final whistle had blown, several thousand blue-scarved people behind the Rangers goal had not begun to leave. They stood immobile, like men who have seen the light, their faces glowing with pure, unadulterated joy.

In the press box, a fellow journalist said: "There'll be no fighting tonight: these ones will be in too good a mood and the others too shocked."

Below us, a dozen groundsmen raked the battleground, picking up a tooth here, a cubic centimetre of skin over there . . . but the consensus was that it had been a bonny game; one in which Rangers came back into European reckoning, climbed to within three points of Celtic's aggregate with a game in hand.

Rangers deserved to win — and won. The means was a penalty awarded against McNeill, who was deemed to have deliberately touched a cannon-ball shot from Henderson which most of us hardly saw.

Perhaps it was a token of the referee's long-standing esteem for the speed of the Celtic captain's reactions. Perhaps McNeill instinctively raised an arm towards the ball. It hardly mattered. Mr Webster, of Larbert, gave his decision with such authority that one sat back and admired the sheer expertise of the man.

His hand, boot, nose and whistle all pointed irrevocably to the spot. His ears flapped decisively as if to state that he would hear no second opinion.

While one admired the excellence of Greig's shot into the top of the net, one was less impressed with Rangers' Stein who ran onto the ball as it emerged and slammed it in again.

As I was about to leave, there came news that a railing had collapsed and 21 men taken to hospital. I expressed my concern.

"They seem happy enough," said a policeman. "They are not hurt bad and they were Rangers supporters, d'ye ken?"

Theatre tickets for only 20p

Day six of our theatre tickets offer gives you the chance to treat a guest to a night out at the theatre for only 20p. Here is the second part of a list of more than 130 productions in regional theatres around Britain. Buy one ticket at the prices listed here and receive another for just 20p.

If you live in Scotland, you can use your 20p tokens for theatres in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling. In Northern Ireland you can use your tokens to see *The Constant Wife* at Belfast's Grand Opera House and in Wales you can visit theatres in Cardiff, Mold or Swansea. The first part of the regional theatre list appeared on Saturday.

To book your 20p offer tickets, collect the six tokens which have appeared since last Tuesday (a bonus token appears below). When you have six tokens, select your show and telephone the number given. Then attach the tokens to the form below and present it at the box office of your chosen theatre. If you have missed any of the listings, call 071 867 0400 for details of participating theatres in your area.

* An asterisk indicates all a theatre's productions may be booked. Otherwise, only one show may be chosen.

Zoe Telford, left, Wendi Peters and Nicholas Lane in Hull Truck Theatre Company's *Teechers*

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Tosca
March 8 - 10
Tickets £19.50, £16.50, £13.50.
The Childrens Hour
March 15 - 17
Tickets £17.50, £16.50, £15.50.
Glasgow – Citizens - 0141 429 0022
Women Beware Women
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Tickets £6.
Glasgow – *Tron Theatre 0141 552 4267
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Cardiff
***Sherman Theatre** - 01222 230451
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February 24 evening
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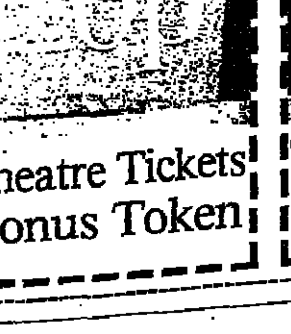
THE TIMES



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Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary at the King's School, Brook Street, Grantham, NG31 6RP (Telephone. 0476 63180)
CLOSING DATE 27 JANUARY 1995

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EDUCATION

Quiet revolution at A level

Ben Preston reports on the way in which an examination seen as a cornerstone of quality has slowly changed

After withstanding impassioned demands for abolition for almost a decade, the 44-year-old A-level examination that ministers laud as the *cornerstone of educational* quality is on the brink of a quiet revolution.

The change is neither the response to the weighty deliberations of an expert committee, nor the outcome of any political initiative to modernise schooling. Instead, it is consumer-led and has gone virtually unnoticed *beyond the* confines of staffrooms and examination boards. Hundreds of schools and colleges are switching to new modular A-level courses that boast low failure rates and examine pupils as they go along.

But the trend is set to accelerate as more schools take advantage of the *growth in such courses*. Already, more than half the current A-level syllabuses in mathematics, science, geography, politics and modern languages are modular. Of 230 A-level courses registered in the past two years by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), *some* 110 are modular.

Modular courses mark a radical break from the traditional A level. Conventionally, candidates prepare for two years before their studies climax with a series of final examinations which determine their grade. One in five fails. The new *courses divide A levels into smaller* courses. Pupils must then complete a certain number of these "modules" — usually four or six in a subject — in order to gain the qualification. This does not generally alter the way in which candidates are assessed. The balance between marks for coursework and formal examination remains similar for modular and conventional courses. However, what does change is the flexibility offered to the candidate.

Pupils are allowed up to four years in which to accumulate the requisite number of modules for an A level. During the course, they choose when to sit the examination for each module: at the end of the term in which they studied it; in the summer of their first year as practice; or, for at least 30 per cent of marks, at the end as they might for conventional A levels.

The key difference is that candidates can then resit individual papers if they are not satisfied with their grade. As one teacher explains: "If A level is the *high* jump, modularity allows people more *than one chance to* get *over*." Thus, if a *pupil needs* a C *grade for their* first-choice university, they can try to bump up a D for a particular module by retaking it — several times, if necessary. Candidates only "cash in" their scores for each module when they are happy with their *final*, overall grade.

Modular courses can also offer students increased *subject* flexibility. Students starting a science course could, for example, eventually gain a qualification in physics, biology, chemistry or science depending on their choice from a menu of modules. Alternatively, they *could* "cash in" grades for three modules to get an *A/S* level. Pupils might *start studying* five subjects at A level and decide which to complete subsequently.

Critics worried that the conventional A level is too narrow and a *mismatch* with *today's* mass higher education system. They are rallying *behind modularity as a way of* bypassing the Government's veto on reform. Others are excited but recognise the problems the anticipated growth of modular courses will throw up — not least with Conservative backbenchers whose belief in the *traditional* A level *is* an article of faith.

> 'I don't want to say it too the loudly, because some people might notice'

Kathleen Tattersall, chief executive of the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board, whispers: "I don't want to say too loudly that A level is being changed, because some people might notice." *She argues that modular courses* improve motivation because candi*dates can accurately measure their* standard during a course and work harder to achieve targets.

The advent of modular courses could, in theory, she muses, bring a 100 per cent pass rate because pupils would not trade in modules until they were worth, at least, an E grade. The dangers of candidate and examiner fatigue, however, would need to be addressed to *avoid an educational treadmill* where schools had to organise *formal* examinations every month.

Dr John Marks, a council member of SCAA, is concerned that just as the Government is reducing the number of GCSE syllabuses to safeguard *standards* and ensure comparability, the growth of modular courses means that the tide is flowing in the opposite direction at A level. He worries that A level, a proven test of intellectual rigour and discipline, might be sacrificed because of the difficulties in policing standards across a multiplicity *of modules*.

Dr Marks's assertion that modular courses appear easier is supported by some guinea-pigs. Euge*nie Samuel, a sixth-former at South* Hampstead High, an independent school in north London, is unimpressed by her modular mathematics course: "Students can learn a relatively small amount of material for a narrow exam, the content of *which will not be retested in other* modules. I looked up some old questions from the 1980s and was completely at sea."

Findings contained in an unpublished report for SCAA by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne will provide further ammunition for critics who believe modular *courses are a soft touch compared* with conventional A levels. An analysis of more than 7,000 candidates with similar GCSE results *shows that those who took modular* mathematics courses gained one grade higher than the rest.

Some 25 per cent gained a grade A, 21 per cent got a B, 19 per cent grade C and 18 per cent a D, comparing favourably with those *on non-modular courses, where* 19 per cent got an A, 15 per cent a B, 15 per cent a C and 16 a D. Supporters of modularity, however, will marshall the same figures to their cause: hard evidence that the new system reflects achievement more fairly, rewards effort and encourages pupils to persevere with *education*.

For head teachers in the age of league tables, the prospect of improved grades is compelling. *The march of modular courses is* evident at Colchester Sixth-Form College, one of the largest in England. Students taking a modular A/S level business studies course for the past two years have maintained a 100 per cent pass rate. *Jan Harker, the subject head, has* been won over by the experiment and is currently deciding which of three new modular business studies course she should introduce at A level. "We got much more out of our students on the modular course. The question now is whether we should introduce it for economics, a *much more traditionally taught* subject." It is a question many other teachers will be asking soon.

GARY WOLENS

Dr Avis Mastin, left, an A-level biology tutor at Colchester Sixth Form College, with a pupil

Sound method of learning

A new programme aims to improve literacy for both adults and children

THIS week will see another *reminder of the shortcomings* in literacy that still plague British *adults. A survey by* the Adult Literacy and Basic Literacy Unit is expected to show continuing problems in a variety of age groups.

But a Manchester academic has developed a new training *programme that could produce* real improvements for adults and children alike. Known as THRASS (The Handwriting Reading and Spelling Sequence), the scheme, developed by Alan Davies, an educational psychologist and a senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, is already in use in 12 Sheffield primary schools.

It was while working in Chester with a group of mothers returning to education after bringing up families that Mr Davies first encountered the *literacy problems that affect six* million adults in this country.

"A lot of intelligent women who had left school early had spelling and writing problems," the 38-year-old says. "What is more, they were *misspelling the* words in the same way." Three of the poor spellers in that Chester class justified his confidence in them by going on to graduate and qualify as teachers.

> When Mr Davies explains about the 44 sounds, some adults cry with relief

Mr Davies became critical of an education system that could *produce such aberrations*. "If the health service discovered there were six million women with, say, breast cancer, they would surely wonder if they had something in common," he suggests. Maybe teaching methods were at fault.

As a parent of two young children, he was interested in the processes of early learning. "I *knew I could read* and *spell*, *but* I didn't know what the process was about," he says. "When I looked into it, I decided they are fundamentally taught wrongly from the beginning."

The problem is that while *there are 44 sounds, or phonemes*, in the English language, there are only 26 letters to represent them. "If you tell children from the beginning that one letter has one sound it will not work." The "Q" in queue, for example, is not the same sound as the "Q" in cheque.

And *to confuse matters, some* sounds are represented by more than one letter. "The 'G' in giant *is the same sound as the 'J' in* jam." It is not always helpful, then, *to "sound out" letters*.

Children who succeed under the present system abandon that process and learn to make successful guesses at words they do not know. Those who fail believe that there is some process *they do not understand or as*sume they have faulty hearing.

When Mr Davies explains now to adults with literacy problems about the 44 sounds, they say, "No one ever told me." Some cry with relief.

"*What* has taken me eight years to work out is how to explain it in a format people will understand." The package, which was published in May, costs £25, but, as its creator explains, all the written material can be photocopied and he recently used the video with 180 *pupils*.

And whereas the Reading Recovery Programme, in which Sheffield had already invested a deal of cash and time, depends on a one-to-one situation, a THRASS *project* leader can cope with six child*ren in one half*-hour session.

The first school to use Mr Davies's system as a whole school policy was St Mildred's Primary School, *Stoke-on-Trent*, where it had been introduced for one boy with *problems associated with* dyslexia.

The *scheme* has also been employed successfully for children with special learning needs and at a college run by the Spastics Society.

Overseas, the South African Government is evaluating the scheme's potential for coping with the new administration's *adult literacy problems, and* interest has been shown by the Jamaican and Barbadian authorities.

In Sheffield, Carol Sheehan, who has been co-ordinating the schools project since September, *declares herself a firm fan of* THRASS and would like to see its use extended.

"The authority is treating it as a pilot project and it will be evaluated in April," she says. "It is early days yet, but there's been an enthusiastic response from the teachers."

ALAN ROAD

Should daily religious assemblies remain compulsory in schools? Two experts give their views

THE CASE FOR

A time to pass on a vision

Where there *is no vision*, the people perish.

One of the fundamental purposes of daily assembly is to communicate a vision: to open the eyes of those who attend to the possibilities that exist within the human spirit. William Blake wrote in the 18th century:

"To the eye of a miser a guinea is far more beautiful than the sun and a bag worn with the use of money has more beautiful proportions than a vine filled with grapes. The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing which stands in the way. As a man is, so he sees."

Two centuries later, young people see the world as obsessed with *material* concerns. Today's headlines boast a £7 million *transfer* fee for a footballer, and a £500,000 deal involving two new books. Bags of *money assume* beautiful proportions. Green things which *stand* in the way are bulldozed to make space for roads.

Assemblies must try to put such things in perspective. They have a central role in cultivating a sense of imagination and a vision of spirituality.

We in schools have a legal responsibility for *the spiritual* and moral education of our pupils. Daily *assemblies* reinforce the values the school *upholds*. They emphasise the *unique* worth of each individual within the community and make explicit what is considered praiseworthy. The sharing of positive experience is immensely important to all young people: to the many who *come from* the secure, confident backgrounds as well as to those who do not feel valued, whose concept of what is praiseworthy may be confined to purely selfish or material gain.

Assemblies raise spiritual and moral issues in a context that enables *discussion* of sensitive, often highly personal and *challenging*, questions to follow naturally. For some pupils, this is the only forum in which such questions may be articulated. Such opportunities are essential in schools, for schools are communities which encompass a wide diversity of religious belief, as well as of unbelief. We provide a daily challenge to *the intellectual* development of our pupils: is their *spiritual development* less important?

> Afterwards pupils say: 'I thought you were speaking directly to me today'

To *prepare* an assembly every day for an audience of *some* 1,000 young people and staff is a responsibility and a *privilege*. It is also one of the most difficult tasks we do.

Church sermons, preached to a willing and witnessing congregation, are usually based on the biblical *text for* the day. In schools, where both *willingness and witness* may be lacking, there is less common ground. We wrestle with texts from a variety of sources to draw out ideas that may be of value to our audience.

We cannot be sure of success, but when an idea catches the imagination, it is enlightening in the *truest sense*. We can watch the spark and feel *the intensity of concentration* in our listeners. It is for those *moments, as a result of which* pupils come afterwards to say: "*I thought you were speaking* directly to me today" that daily assembly is of inestimable value.

To seek each day to catch a glimpse of the vision, to become more aware of mankind's potential for good, is a charge that fills us with humility. But we defend unflinchingly our duty to fulfil it.

PENELOPE PENNEY

● *The author is headmistress of Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, and president of the Girls' Schools Association.*

ROBIN MAYES

Fulham Cross School, London: for some pupils assembly is the only forum where sensitive questions can be asked

THE CASE AGAINST

Serving God or tradition?

The *issue* of school worship is in the news again, and it won't go away. The questions it raises have existed as long as the present system, and will continue as long as it continues.

Like so much in Britain, school worship is there because it is there. How did it get there?

When our system of national education was developed during the 19th century, this had been a Christian country for *more than a thousand* years. What education there was had always been dominated by religious interests, and they fought to preserve their monopoly against the growing intervention by political interests. It was accepted by everyone — except a few Nonconformists, freethinkers and socialists — that all schools should have religious worship and religious instruction, and it was assumed that this should be Christian. Free adults could no longer be forced to worship, but captive *schoolchildren could*.

To satisfy potential objec*tions from* parents, it was agreed that religion in schools should not be "distinctive of any particular denomination", and there should be a "conscience clause" *allowing* parents to withdraw children *from worship or instruction*. The system we have now is *essentially the unsystematic* compromise achieved more than a century ago.

The main effect of withdrawal is to separate conscientious objectors from the rest; so it is seldom used, and in practice worship "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" is compulsory for almost all schoolchildren.

Is this acceptable? Many people follow non-Christian religions. This may seem a minor problem — it is a simple matter *to* arrange non-Christian worship, and anyway *non-Christian religions* are followed by only 3 per cent of *the population — but it means* that worship is a divisive force in *many* schools. Many more people have no religion. This is a major problem. It involves about a third of the population, and it *isn't* a *simple* matter to arrange non-religious worship — if there can be such a thing. Many teachers have replaced religious worship with various kinds of secular assembly. However *desirable such developments* may be, they are technically illegal.

A more serious question is whether religious worship is an educational activity at all, any more than political meetings would be. Many educational and religious experts *think not. Sincere Christians* know that compulsory worship is a contradiction in terms, and strict Christians should know that public *prayers* are authoritatively *condemned in* the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, vi).

> Christians know that compulsory worship is a contradiction in terms

Most parents and politicians, and many commentators, say they want school worship, but how many go to church themselves or even *say* prayers at home, and how *many would welcome* compulsory worship at their place of *work*? After all, fewer than half the people in this country ever voluntarily take part in any religious ceremony, and only a tenth do so regularly.

The most Christian part of the United Kingdom is Northern Ireland, where religious education is one of the main factors in the polarisation of the communities. Several Christian countries have secular education; and the United States, which is far more Christian than Britain, has a constitutional ban on religion in state schools.

School worship is said to be *part of our national heritage*, but isn't a more valuable part of that heritage the religious freedom we won three centuries ago, and doesn't freedom of religion include freedom from compulsory religion? We are a *plural society*, and the state schools should serve the *whole community*, bringing children together rather than driving them apart.

Surely a partial reform is necessary, at least to make school worship *genuinely* voluntary.

Pupils could opt in rather than opt out, like trade unionists; worship could be practised only outside the formal timetable, like other voluntary *activities*: worship and assembly could be separated. But a *total reform* would be preferable.

The *removal* of the legal straitjacket would bring a breath of fresh air to the whole area, freeing teachers and pupils to make assembly a true centre of school life.

NICOLAS WALTER

● *The author is the managing director of the Rationalist Press Association.*

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شكرا من الاهل

Let's have fair play for the under-fives

Helen Penn describes some disturbing anomalies in private and state nursery education and asks why it should be so

Privatising nursery education, as the Adam Smith Institute suggested last week, is not such a radical idea. For the 52 per cent of working parents who have children under five, it is only the private market which meets their needs.

The state nursery education system operates a part-day, part-year service which covers 26 per cent of three and four-year-olds. If used, it has to be supplemented with privately paid-for care, or help from obliging relatives.

The new BBC serial on nannies illustrates how common a dilemma it is for the middle classes to arrange satisfactory private care. For them, the problem is not state or private, but how to choose within the private — how to find a satisfactory nanny or private nursery. The problem for low income or single-parent families is not only in finding care and education, but in paying for it.

Not much is known about the quality or standards of private market provision for under-fives. In America there has been considerable research on home-sitters (nannies) and private nurseries, and much of it is worrying. It indicates that quality is very variable, and related to price, and that poor quality care has a poor outcome for children.

The most comprehensive review of American private day nurseries, the National Childcare Staffing Study carried out in 1988 on 227 nurseries, suggested that in poorer quality nurseries, staff morale was low, and staff turnover very high. In the sample as a whole there was a staff turnover rate in excess of 41 per cent in one year.

The study concluded that the single most important determinant of quality for children was the rate of pay of the workers. Subsequent research has indicated that staff turnover rates have risen, and has confirmed the relationship between the quality of the staff and children's development.

However, in America there is no national legislation on the operation of day nurseries. In the UK some protection is afforded by the 1989 Children Act, which lays down minimum regulatory conditions. These conditions are far less generous than those required for private nursery education.

ROBIN MAYES

Beyond the means of poor parents? A private nursery in Wandsworth, south London

There is no requirement, as in state education legislation, to employ qualified teachers and nursery nurses; and the space requirements are less than those in operation in state nursery education. Only in the matter of adult to child ratios are the requirements more stringent. In the private sector, there must be one adult for every eight children aged three to five; in the State sector the ratio is 13:1.

Set against that, however, is the availability of auxiliary help. Cleaners, janitors and secretaries are provided to supplement the work of the care and education staff. No teacher would be expected to clean out the rooms and take care of the building or do any secretarial work.

In the private sector, the auxiliary staff are legally dispensable, and their work is frequently done by the regular staff as an integral part of their everyday job of looking after children. In short, in the private sector less well-trained staff look after children in a smaller space, and have to clean up as well.

The requirements for inspection also differ between state nursery education and the private sector. State provision is subject to Ofsted inspection. This is infrequent, but extremely thorough, lasting several days, with a team of inspectors focusing on the quality of the education offered, in line with latest government circulars. The report is then published and made available to staff, parents and anyone who wishes to see it.

In the private sector, the Children Act requires annual inspections, but these are often cursory, involving a half-day or day visit from a person not necessarily qualified or experienced in education or childcare. It often focuses on health and safety issues, and those aspects of the regulations which are unequivocal, such as the cleanliness of the toilets, or the perceived adult-staff ratios. These reports are regarded as confidential between the owner and the inspector, and there is no obligation to publish them. Parents may not even know they exist.

In a small study carried out for *Panorama* last year, we found private nurseries to be of very variable quality. The best nurseries were very good indeed, rivalling or surpassing what is available in the public sector and offering, in addition, a flexibility that the rigid hours of public nursery education cannot begin to match. The worst nurseries were undoubtedly bad, with poor educational practices, inadequate premises, young, poorly trained staff and a high staff turnover — in two cases more than 90 per cent turnover in one year.

Out of 105 staff studied, 79 held a nursery nurse qualification, and four were teachers; the rest were untrained. For trained staff, the average weekly take-home pay was £135 (Social Trends lists the average wage for a woman as £330 per week). Conditions of service were poor, only one worker in the sample had a pension entitlement and many did not have written contracts, or sick pay or holiday entitlements. Only a very few staff from one nursery belonged to a union. By contrast teachers and nursery nurses in state nursery education have, through their unions, relatively generous negotiated pay settlements and secure working conditions.

The private market, therefore, offers far less favourable conditions to staff than the state sector. If the American findings are true, and there is a direct relationship between quality of care and education and the level of pay and conditions of work of staff, then we should worry about the expansion of the private market. We should also worry about the difference in regulatory requirements.

Why should the private sector be allowed to offer so much less than state sector nursery education? We should also worry about the inappropriateness of nursery provision in the state sector. How can we, in this day and age, justify a continuation of an education system which offers no more than two and a half hours a day of nursery education to children of working parents? A better balance between care and education, state and private provision, has to be found.

● *The author lectures at the London University Institute of Education.*

Hoping for sweet success at Easter

Despite the recession, the popularity of revision courses continues to grow as their format becomes more sophisticated

The recession might have been expected to blow a hole in the market for Easter revision courses. Whatever their record for rescuing GCSE and A-level candidates, they still cost hundreds of pounds.

In reality, however, the demand for places has continued to grow rapidly. There are now more than 60 schools and colleges in the market, as well as countless individual teachers offering intensive coaching over the holiday.

With university offers predicted to be at least as high as last year, there is little reason to believe that the bubble will burst yet. About 5,000 students are expected to enrol this year, and they will have more courses than ever from which to choose.

One reason is that the revision business is becoming more sophisticated as students and their parents become more selective. A number of colleges have followed last year's lead by the four Mander Portman Woodward institutions in offering courses tailored to particular examining boards.

Joe Ruston, MPW's chairman, says: "The new 'board specific' courses must be the shape of things to come because parents can be sure that they will be totally relevant to their needs. You will not be wasting time on texts that are not on your particular syllabus, for example."

How to find the right course is parents' perennial concern. There are obvious starting points, such as the number of teaching hours and staff qualifications, but there is no official inspection or regulation. Some colleges are recognised by the British Accreditation Council and some principals belong to the Council of Independent Further Education, but individual courses are not monitored.

John Bone, of Wellington College, in Berkshire, one of the main providers among independent schools, says: "We are desperate to get an accreditation system going, but a lot of the colleges are far from keen. We think parents need to know what they are getting for their money."

At Wellington, that means £375 for a six-day residential course. Wellington has been running revision programmes for a decade, and now has more than 300 places on residential and non-residential courses. With A-level students working from 9am to 9pm, with two hours' break in the afternoons, the college brochure's warning that "this is no laggard's paradise" seems particularly apt.

There is no doubt, however, that some of the programmes on offer this Easter will be much less rigorous. In particular, some of the organisations operating only at Easter are regarded with considerable suspicion by the established providers.

"As a general rule, it must be safer to go for a college that runs all year round," Mr Ruston says. "It is still terribly easy for cowboys to make money over Easter and disappear as soon as the course has finished."

Gabbitas Educational Consultants, based in London, offers free advice on revision courses, making recommendations from a list of more than 30 colleges. Wendy Johnson, the marketing officer, says: "We stick to places we know well and which have a track record in getting people through. Most are in London, but there are some in Oxford and Cambridge, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester."

Gabbitas has had relatively few inquiries so far this year, but business usually hots up after the February half-term, when parents are able to make a realistic assessment of their children's prospects. The courses may look expensive, but many parents compare the cost of a year retaking A levels, and decide to take the plunge.

Courses are now attracting a wide variety of students, from the high-flyers aiming for medical schools to those who are flirting with failure. The colleges also report growing numbers of state school pupils enrolling, as their parents devote something of what they have saved in fees to a late, hopeful push for the best possible grades. Results from the established courses suggest that the money spent usually is not wasted.

JOHN OLEARY

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Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP (tel: 0191 374 3158).
Closing date for completed applications is 6 February 1995. Please quote reference A383.

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Further particulars of the appointments may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JD (tel. 01865-270003), to whom applications, including a detailed curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by 10 February 1995.

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This senior appointment requires an ordained Anglican, man or woman, of experience and ability to lead the college. The person appointed is likely to be aged 40 - 55. The post is available from 1 September 1995.
Those interested should write for details to: The Principal's Secretary, Wycliffe Hall, 54, Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PW. The closing date for applications is 15 February 1995. Interviews will be held on 4 - 5 April 1995.

COKETHORPE SCHOOL
The Governors seek to appoint a
HEAD
for September 1995,
following the appointment of Mr. David Crawford as Headmaster of Colston's Collegiate School, Bristol

Cokethorpe is an independent day and boarding school for boys and girls aged 9 - 18. The School is magnificently situated in a historic mansion set amid rolling parkland near Witney, Oxfordshire. There has been much development at the School in recent years, and the Governors are committed to a continuing programme of expansion.

The present Headmaster is a member of the Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools.

Application forms and further details may be obtained by writing to Mrs L.A. Charlesworth, c/o Cokethorpe School, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX8 7PU.

Closing date for applications Saturday 4th February 1995.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,759.70	Abbey Nat	439	+ ½	4.4	14.8
1,779.80	Allied Irish	267	- 5	4.7	10.3
2,761.30	Ans New Z	204	+ 1	5.9	*
9,188.30	Bank America	2625	+ 25	...	...
2,326.30	Bank Scotland	199	- 8	3.3	11.2
9,567.50	Barclays	587	- 22	3.5	14.3
1,412.10	Bk of Ireland	297	- 4	4.9	8.6
9,634.70	Citicorp	2475	- 200	...	...
214.20	Close Bros	225	+ 2	4.2	18.2
4,373.70	CommerzBk	£133⅝	+ 240⅝	6.2	...
37,733.60	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1209¼	+ 25	0.5	...
14,098.60	Deutsche Bk	£297⅞	+ 166¾	2.3	.
173.70	Espirito Santo	812½	- 40⅜	4.7	4.1
113.10	First Nat Fin	67	+ 8	2.8	*
40,186.70	Fuji Bank Y	1387	+ 5	0.4	*
436.00	Hambros	247	+ 7	7.6	15.2
5,555.90	HSBC	652	- 28	4.7	8.4
11,243.10	HSBC HK	641	- 38½	4.8	9.3
39.90	Joseph (L)	395	- 13	5.6	11.5
721.70	Kleinwort Ben	541	- 7	4.4	9.5
7,094.80	Lloyds	547	- 14	5.3	10.8
6,880.50	Nat Aust Bk	514	+ 7	7.0	*
8,249.10	Nat West	481	- 15	5.0	9.4
107.50	Ottoman Bank	2150	.	6.8	*
27.40	Rea Bros	65		1.8	18.5
3,115.90	Ryl Bk Scot†	389	- 3	4.4	9.4
1,443.00	Schroders	1443	.	1.6	13.2
379.30	Schroders N/V	1308	- 2	1.8	12.0
168.00	Singer & Fied	85½	- ½	4.6	11.0
2,419.60	Stand Chart	251	- 11	3.2	8.6
3,414.10	TSB	223	- 14	5.2	*
1,480.60	Wachtng BB	673	- 11	4.1	12.3
5,221.30	Wells Fargo	9425	+ 12½	2.9	...
3,858.00	Westpac	212	- 5	2.6	*
18.30	Wintrust	215	...	6.0	14.4

BREWERIES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
45.30	Ascot Hldgs	164	- 5		
4,487.20	Bass†	514	- 15	5.1	13.0
315.40	Boddington	260	+ 1	4.0	14.8
35.60	Burtonwd Brw†	178	.	3.6	14.7
32.50	Eldridge P 'A'†	157	+ 2	3.3	*
1,802.50	Fosters Brewing	56	+ 2	5.2	*
71.80	Fuller Sm 'A'†	352	+ 3	2.8	14.6
871.90	Greenalls Grp†	417	- 8	3.9	20.7
223.50	Greene King†	528	- 2	3.1	14.4
52.80	Hardy Hanson	364	+ 8	4.6	*
3.48	Heavitree	150	.	3.4	13.5
105.40	Holt J	3400	.	1.8	18.7
158.00	Mansfield†	243	+ 8	2.4	14.9
273.60	Marston Thmp†	304	- 6	2.5	14.8
109.00	Morland†	483	+ 8	2.9	13.9
8.28	Paramount	7		3.6	..
48.10	Regent Inns	327	+ 3	2.1	26.1
3,980.10	SA Breweries	1434⅞	- 71⅛	2.0	22.1
2,698.00	Scot & Newc†	503		4.3	14.4
330.90	Vaux Group†	237	+ 5	5.2	13.4
177.00	Wetherspoon JD	471	+ 15	1.8	25.9
2,923.60	Whitbread†	559	+ 2½	4.3	15.3
348.50	Wolvrhmptn Dt	524		3.3	13.8
81.30	Yates Bros†	208	+ 13	2.3	16.4
13.40	Young 'A'	463	- 2	4.0	19.6

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

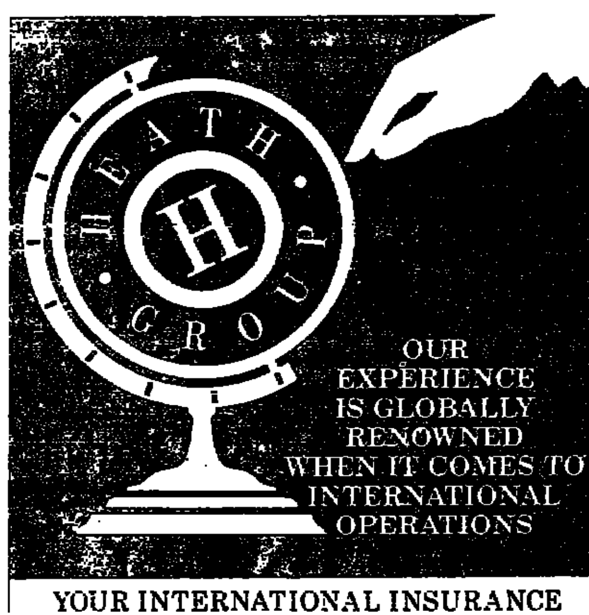
Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
52.30	Abbey	135	- 10	4.9	9.7
50.70	Allen†	157	- 1	4.5	14.7
139.70	Amec	69	+ ½	5.4	39.8
21.20	Andrews Sykes	148	+ 10		
127.00	Ashtead	422	.	1.6	26.7
45.20	Avonside	104		5.3	12.2
3.67	Bailey (Ben) Con	35	.	2.5	21.4
6.73	Barcom	36			
297.00	Barratt Devs	163	- 7	4.6	12.7
362.20	Beazer Homes	129	- 2	5.2	10.1
161.90	Bellway†	186	- 10	4.7	11.0

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
28.40	ABI Leis†	105		4.8	*
59.80	Acal†	309	...	2.8	16.7
25.40	Adam & Harvey	590	...	3.3	7.4
8.46	Alexanders	21	...	3.0	19.5
73.70	Appleyard	111	.	6.5	19.6
12.50	Ass Br Eng	4¾	...	1.3	33.8
135.70	BSG Group†	518	.	4.4	18.3
7.83	Bearing Power†	22½	- ½	5.6	*
15.40	Bletchley Mtr	253	..	5.2	10.4
1.36	Bogod 'A'†	28	...	3.1	11.8
158.00	Brammer	362	- 1	4.6	19.8
4.12	Bridgend Gp	15	.	1.7	78.0
21.40	Brit Fittings	90	+ 2	3.1	
15.60	Brown & Tawse	48	+ 4	..	...
41.20	Bunzlane	39	+ 2	6.4	.
8.84	Caffyns†	265	.	5.4	44.0
22.20	Cashet Pict	23½	- 2½	5.9	13.0
12.10	Central Mtr	88	..	5.0	21.8
17.60	Cook (DC)†	41	- 1	3.5	12.6
383.20	Cowie A.	238	- 2	4.8	11.8
33.40	Dag Motors	138	..	5.8	15.9
26.30	Dennans El	598	+ 5	1.4	14.7
249.40	Diploma†	430	+ 7	3.9	15.1
1,022.10	Electrocomponts	466	+ 10	2.6	19.9
42.10	Electron House	165	+ 5	2.4	17.0
215.30	Ellis & Everard	258	- 2	3.8	18.9
98.50	Eurodollar†	201	- 4	6.9	15.7
59.00	European Mtr	110	+ 2	5.1	12.0
124.20	Evans Halshaw	388	- 5	4.6	12.2
722.50	Farnell Elect	536	+ 20	1.9	22.0
7.13	Fife Indmar	58	..	5.8	8.6
16.80	Gardner	15½	.	6.0	7.4
5.95	Gladstone	23½	...		25.9
6.64	Gowrings	73	...	3.4	22.2
26.90	Hallin Hldgs	73	+ 1½	.	57.0
17.90	Harris (Philip)†	166	.	5.2	14.8
127.40	Hardys	267	..	3.5	14.3
2.93	Holders Tech	94	+ 2	8.0	10.2
43.10	ISA Intl	108	- 3	2.8	13.5
2,130.30	Inchcape	405	- 13	4.6	13.5
5.72	Jacks (Wm)	53	- 3	...	12.3
282.90	Kwik-Fit.	164	- 3	3.0	18.8
297.30	Lex Service	312	+ 5	5.4	11.9
37.60	Lookers	193	..	4.5	12.0
27.30	Malaya Grp	14¼	- ¼	2.2	..
35.40	Middlesex ©	6¼	- 1¼		
44.70	Motban	430	- 5	0.7	19.2
15.60	Northumber†	92	+ 1	1.8	39.1
13.40	PCT	152	..	6.1	14.7
93.10	Pendragon	247	- 5	3.8	18.2
35.90	Perry Gp	142	- 16	8.2	7.8
29.40	Quicks Group	128	- 3	5.1	13.5
15.00	REA	165	..	4.5	34.1
4.87	Reece	2¾	...	...	.
8.41	Rosr Gp	6	...	4.2	.
30.80	SEP Ind	38	..	3.5	
14.30	TLS Range	39½	- ½	3.3	15.9
123.00	Time Products	232		4.7	15.6
77.80	Vardy (Reg)	168	..	3.9	12.4
34.49	Wholesale Ftgs	242	- 2	6.0	21.6
29.88	Wills Gp	17	- ½	3.7	9.5
58.00	Witshaw†	70	- 2½	1.2	23.8
19.70	Wyko	61		1.0	*
11.50	Young (H)†	69	+ 1	6.5	*

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
127.40	Adwest	156	- 1	6.0	15.8
499.80	Antofagasta	318	+ 13	1.4	25.7
17.60	Armour	48	.	4.7	10.0
15,723.70	Broken Hill	949	+ 9	2.2	37.7
11,114.10	BTR	305½	+ 4	5.1	16.1
13,878.00	BAT	450	.	5.7	11.8
120.30	Bibby (J)†	77	+ 5	4.9	14.3
1,157.30	Brierley Inv	44½	- 2	9.8	*
675.30	Charter†	788	+ 3	3.6	23.1
1,330.50	Cookson	234	..	3.5	21.2
12,422.40	Hanson	340	- 3	6.2	16.5
1,013.20	Hanson Cndt	144	- 1	7.8	16.4
7,807.70	Hutch Whamp	210⅝	- 28⅝	2.7	15.1
3,456.30	Jardine Math	481	- 19½	3.0	10.9
5.22	Jourdan (T)	29	.	4.3	28.8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Britain pins Chinese hopes on inland area

From James Pringle in Peking

BRITAIN hopes to increase trade with China after the signing of a £1 billion export credit to UK companies investing in the grimy central Chinese industrial city of Wuhan.

The British arrangement with Wuhan, signed last October in a memorandum of understanding (MOU), has been kept quiet until now, according to British officials, because one of the British companies in the transaction, which is in the telecommunications industry, did not wish to be publicly named.

Other diplomats in China say that the agreement was to have been trumpeted during a visit to Britain, if it materialises, of Qian Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister. The Chinese have been wary of Britain over the controversy of increased democratisation in Hong Kong, and bilateral business has suffered.

Most European countries, however, have been anxious to move beyond human rights issues to those of straight business in the world's biggest emerging market.

"So far, no business has been done under the MOU," a British embassy official said. "This is more about relationship building and sending signals that we are serious about doing business with Wuhan."

To emphasise its commitment to the China market, Britain has spent £45,000 on a technology centre at a leading university in Wuhan, which is away from the booming coastal provinces, but which, as a communications hub, is the terminus of the Yangtse ferry from Chungking, the most important city in Sichuan province.

"Everyone is concentrating on the coastal provinces," said a British official. "The idea is to focus our effort away from these provinces. We have ideas for expansion in other inland provinces."

Foreign companies have became wary of China recently, with serious defaulting on loans, such as with Lehman Brothers' fight to recover $100 million in alleged bad debts from two Chinese companies.

Wuhan will benefit from construction of the huge Three Gorges Dam across the Yangtse, west of the city of 7 million people. Work has begun on the project, likely to make central China an economic powerhouse, say analysts.

COMPANIES

Leisure boom pays dividends

A SEA change in consumers' spending habits is providing a significant boost to the leisure industry, according to Paul Slattery, of Kleinwort Benson.

He said: "While retailers complain of sluggish high street spending, everybody is putting on their hats and coats and going out to restaurants, hotels, night clubs, football games; you name it, they're going to it." All good news for leisure groups reporting this week.

FIRST LEISURE: Falling attendances at tenpin bowling alleys will be the only real downside when the coastal resorts and nightclubs group, which owns Blackpool Tower, unveils finals on Tuesday. NatWest Securities reckons that a strong performance over the summer months will have lifted sales and profits in the coastal resorts by some 9 per cent. Nightclub profits are likely to be around 12 per cent higher. Analysts will be watching out for news on early trading at the two recently opened clubs at Park Royal and Kingston. Attendances have been falling faster than the pins themselves at the group's bowling alleys. First Leisure is taking steps to slim down the cost base, and reducing entrance prices.

NatWest predicts a like-for-like decline in sales of 13 per cent and a profits fall of 21 per cent. Kleinwort forecasts group profits of £37.3 million, compared with £31.8 million last time, boosting earnings per share from 14.8p to 16.5p. NatWest is more conservative: £36 million and 15.8p. BZW forecasts £37.1 million.

STANLEY LEISURE: The betting shops and casinos group, which reports interim results on Wednesday, is benefiting from increasing deregulation of the gaming industry. BZW, the house broker, forecasts half-time profits of £7.2 million, compared with £5.4 million.

PELICAN GROUP: The restaurant boom is good news for the Dome restaurants chain, which is particularly well placed to take advantage of the upturn in demand. Kleinwort Benson expects the interim profits, due today, to have doubled to £5 million.

EUROCAMP: The opening of the Channel Tunnel will no doubt turn out to be good news in the long term for the company, a point it will no doubt be anxious to stress when unveiling full-year figures today.

These are expected to reveal pre-tax profits of between £8 million and £8.8 million against £6.25 million last year. Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with an increase in the dividend from 9.75p to 10.2p. The figures will have been boosted by vastly improved booking levels during 1994. Brokers will also want to quiz the group on early 1995 bookings for the key summer holiday period after some encouraging noises from some of its rivals.

CARPETRIGHT: Sir Philip Harris's carpets chain will have felt the effects of the poor housing market during the six months to November. NatWest anticipates a strong first-half performance, but expects a more difficult second half. It expects profits of £12 million, compared with £10.5 million.

TOMKINS: The widely diversified industrial conglomerate kicks off the week with half-year figures later today. Pre-tax profits are expected to show a healthy improvement, with brokers pencilling in £107 million, against £93.8 million. They will also be looking for evidence of an improving trend in many of the group's interests, ranging from guns to bread, building products and lawnmowers.

Ranks Hovis McDougall, which it acquired several years ago, is the biggest contributor to profits. The rationalisation of RHM continues apace and should guarantee further profits growth. Hopes that the business will begin to see an improvement in market conditions after a difficult few years seem unlikely. Margins are expected to remain under pressure, with little likelihood of price increases other than through new products. The fluid control division has seen no improvement in trading, although in the US the heating, ventilation and air conditioning operations are experiencing signs of an upturn on the commercial side and last year's 3 per cent price rise at ASC appears to have held.

COLORVISION: The recent trading update painted a picture of tough market conditions with margins still feeling the strain as consumer confidence continues to bump along the bottom. Those problems are likely to be magnified when interim figures from Colorvision, the Liverpool retailer of televisions and video recorders, are unveiled on Wednesday. Even the most optimistic forecasts can only muster a breakeven situation, although that will be a drastic improvement on the loss of £1.26 million last year.

The problems built up steadily at the group last year, culminating in a profits warning during April with profits collapsing from £1.8 million to just £203,000 and the dividend cut. Brokers admit that the going remains tough and that the group still has a long way to go.

Tough going at Ranks Hovis McDougall for Gregory Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins

Results and statistics

TODAY

Interims: Abtrust Scotland Investment, Bromsgrove Industries, Carclo Engineering Group, Explaura Holdings, Pelican Group, Tomkins. **Finals:** Eurocamp, Robert H Lowe, Slimma, Soundtracs. **Economic statistics:** producer price index (December).

TOMORROW

Interims: Court Cavendish, Electron House, Nobo Group, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, Peel Holdings, St David's Investment Trust, J Savile Gordon, Williamson Tea, Wyko Group. **Finals:** Central Motor Auctions, Chase Manhattan, Citicorp, Everards, First Choice Holidays, Intel Corp, South Country Homes, Unidare. **Economic statistics:** CBI survey of distributive trades (December).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Aberforth Split Level Trust, Beales Hunter, Colorvision, Martin Shelton Group, Photo-Me International, SelecTV, Stanley Leisure Organisation. **Finals:** First Leisure, London & Clydeside Holdings, London Scottish Bank, Lookers, RCO Holdings, Second Consolidated Trust. **Economic statistics:** public sector borrowing requirement (December), retail prices index (December), quarterly economic accounts (third quarter); labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (December-prov); average earnings indices (November-prov); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes; agricultural land prices in Wales (third quarter), annual agricultural land prices in Wales (93/94); labour force survey rapid release key results (Autumn) (September-November).

THURSDAY

Interims: Aim Group, Barbour Index, Carpetright, Mckay Securities, William Ransom, Rubicon Group. **Finals:** Brooks Tool Engineering, Brunner Investment Trust, Hill & Smith Holdings, Neotronics Technology. **Economic statistics:** motor vehicle production (December) machine tools (November) retail sales (December).

FRIDAY

Interims: Data General Corporation (q1), Park Food Group. **Finals:** Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust, LPA Industries, PWS Holdings, Selective Assets. **Economic statistics:** Building societies monthly figures (December); provisional estimates of m4 and counterparts (December); major British banking groups' monthly statement (December); financial statistics (January).

The Sunday Times: Buy Tomkins. *The Observer:* Buy TSB, Stakis. Avoid The Rank Organisation. *The Independent on Sunday:* Buy The Rank Organisation, Goode Durrant, Next, Grampian Holdings. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy National Express, Eurocamp. Avoid Bakyrchik Gold. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy Williams, Peter Black. *The Sunday Express:* Buy Hanson. Sell Dixons.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

BRITAIN publishes a bumper crop of economic statistics this week, starting with today's report of industrial costs and prices. Average City forecasts for producer input prices are a rise of 0.3 per cent in December, against November's 0.7 per cent increase. Producer output prices, however, are expected to rise by 0.4 per cent compared with November's 0.1 per cent increase. These are key figures because the Bank of England has repeatedly expressed concern about industry passing on higher commodity prices and raw materials costs to their customers.

The latest snapshot of consumer health also comes today with the distributive trades survey from the CBI. That will be followed on Thursday by official retail sales figures for December. The City is expecting a rise of about 0.3 per cent in sales, a small improvement from the complete lack of growth in October and November.

More evidence on the inflation front comes on Wednesday with publication of the retail prices index for December. Headline RPI inflation is expected to have risen by 0.3 per cent last month, pushing the annual rate up from 2.6 per cent in November to 2.7 per cent. Underlying inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, is forecast to have risen by 0.2 per cent, which should leave the annual rate unchanged at November's 2.3 per cent.

Wednesday also sees December labour market statistics, which are expected to show another sizeable drop in headline unemployment of perhaps 32,000 compared with November's decrease of 43,400. Average earnings growth for November is expected to have remained unchanged at October's 4 per cent. Wednesday is rounded off with figures for the public sector borrowing requirement for December are also released. Friday rounds off the week with the latest broad money supply figures and bank and building society lending for December.

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British Gas to develop Qatar field for the Gulf

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH GAS and a consortium of oil companies are seeking finance for the development of one of the world's largest gas fields in Qatar, in the Arabian Gulf.

The joint venture partners, which include Gulfstream Resources, the Canadian group, and Atlantic Richfield, the American operator, intend to invest $1 billion in a project to produce and sell gas to the rapidly growing Gulf states that are suffering from a fuel shortage.

Discovered in 1971, the offshore North Dome field covers 1.7 million acres and has proven recoverable reserves of 225 trillion cubic feet, of which 32.2 trillion cubic feet makes up the Western oil company's concession.

Those reserves compare with the North Sea's proven reserves of 165 trillion cubic feet.

Negotiations are in progress to sell gas from North Dome to Dubai with transport via a sub-sea pipeline. For more than 20 years the project has been stuck in a logjam of divergent interests but both British Gas and Gulfstream said last week that they were keen to move ahead. Finance for the first phase of the venture is being sought by Kleinwort Benson.

Prospects for developing the field were given a boost in December when Arco and British Gas took 27.5 per cent and 25 per cent interests in a production sharing agreement with the Government of Qatar.

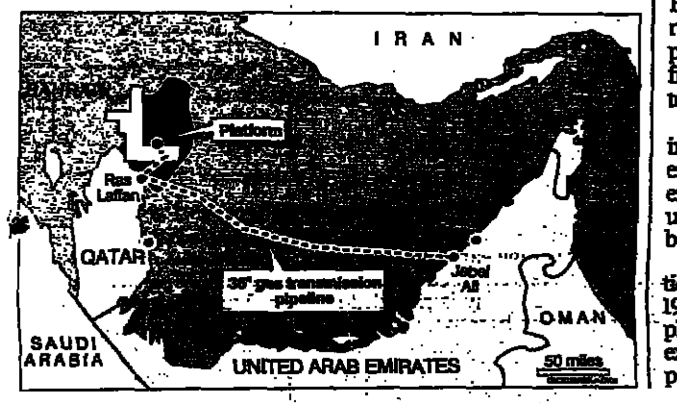
They acquired part of their stake from Wintershall, the German oil company that now owns 15 per cent, while Gulfstream reduced its interest from 33 per cent to 27.5 per cent.

The oil-rich Gulf countries suffer from a shortage of cheap clean fuel to convert into power because they have concentrated on producing crude oil, which can easily be sold for cash. Traditionally, any gas that came out of the ground with the oil was simply flared off while existing power stations ran on highly polluting fuel oil.

Now the Gulf states are keen to develop a manufacturing economy and demand is growing for a cleaner source of energy. Gas demand in the region is projected to soar from 2 billion cubic feet per day to 3.1 billion cubic feet per day over the next five years. Gas sold to Dubai will supply its power station, desalination plants and the Dubai aluminium smelter.

Angus McKee, chairman of Gulfstream, said that Gulfstream intended to drill six oil wells in the North Field Arab-B structure.

Funds from oil production, which could begin before the end of 1995, would help to finance the gas project, which could take three years. Mr McKee expects a gas sale contract to be in place by the middle of 1995.



A Robin at one of Reliant's two factories. The new owner hopes to concentrate manufacturing on one site

Bonds are back in favour

By Sarah Bagnall

UK fund managers' interest in buying US equities has waned further, but bonds have bounced firmly back into favour, according to the latest monthly poll by Smith New Court and Gallup.

The January survey, involving 85 institutions handling funds of £878 billion, found that fund managers were sellers of US equities for the fourth consecutive month. However, the proportion of respondents planning to dispose of US equities has fallen from 34 per cent in November to 29 per cent in January.

There was a sharp increase in the number of fund managers planning to raise their exposure to overseas bonds — up from 3 per cent in November to 17 per cent in January.

Buying interest in UK equities continues to edge up, with 19 per cent of respondents planning to increase their exposure, compared with 18 per cent in December.

C&W set to tap into German network

By Eric Reguly

CABLE & WIRELESS is poised to make its biggest investment in the European telecommunications market through a joint venture with Veba of Germany.

Negotiations between C&W and Veba are said to be close to completion and the joint venture was to have been unveiled next month. A report of the alliance over the weekend, however, may force the companies to make an announcement within the next few days.

C&W would not confirm or deny the joint venture, which may involve the acquisition by C&W of a small stake in Veba. Peter Eustace, a spokesman, said: "We're looking for partners in Europe and we're talking to a number of potential candidates."

Veba, one of Germany's biggest conglomerates, has stated that it hopes to become Deutsche Telekom's main rival once its monopoly is broken in 1998. It has formed Vebacom, a telecoms subsidiary, and has been looking for an international partner.

Viag, another German industrial conglomerate, last week formed a joint venture with BT. The alliance, known as Viag InterKom, will seek a full telecoms licence in Germany.

Veba will exploit C&W's expertise in operations and network technology, including mobile phones. C&W owns 80 per cent of Mercury Communications, which has a half interest in Mercury One-2-One. Veba has a minority stake in E-Plus, one of Germany's three mobile phone companies.

C&W has extensive interests overseas but has paid scant attention to Europe. Its biggest foreign holding is its 57.5 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom, whose annual turnover exceeds £2 billion. Turnover in Europe, excluding Britain, was only £34 million in the last financial year.

Reliant due for rescue

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor

RELIANT, the carmaker, is due to be rescued from receivership today when it is bought by a private engineering company based in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

The company, which makes the Sabre Scimitar sports car in addition to the three-wheelers, the Robin and the Rialto, went into receivership last November when Bean Engineering, its parent, failed because of bad debts within its other subsidiaries.

KPMG Peat Marwick, the receiver, is thought to have received considerable interest in the company even though this is the second time it has been in receivership in three years.

The deal with the successful bidder should be signed this afternoon. The new owner believes Reliant, which makes about 800 cars a year, is fundamentally profitable. It hopes to cut costs substantially by concentrating manufacturing on one site.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

US poised to break into Indian market

THE United States expects to sign business deals worth billions of dollars with Indian firms this week — its first significant attempt to establish a presence in the world's largest untapped market after China. Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, accompanied by 26 US chief executive officers, begins a week of high-level meetings today that will provide a measure of India's commitment to its economic reform programme, introduced four years ago.

Without further reforms, foreign investment is likely to remain comparatively small. However, the governing Congress party seems to have lost the heart to continue the economic overhaul because of disastrous state election results that can be attributed, in part, to resistance to change by farming communities and the poor. With more important state elections due next month and a general election a year away, the Government has put the brakes on radical change.

Celtic fuels jobs growth

CELTIC ENERGY, the company that bought British Coal's mining activities in South Wales, is planning to create 330 jobs over the next 12 months. Most of the jobs will be at three new opencast mining sites, which will replace a similar number of existing sites that are nearing the end of their lives. The management and employee buyout, which paid £94.5 million for a package of nine opencast sites and washeries, also plans to hire 35 new management and white collar staff.

UK a burglary blackspot

HOMES in the UK are more likely to be burgled than those almost anywhere else in Europe, according to a new study. Only Italy has a worse record, says Eagle Star, the insurer, analysing statistics from 12 countries. In 1993, 1,480,000 homes were burgled in the UK, the equivalent of 64 in every thousand. Italy's total was 1,390,000, or 70 per thousand. The UK is more than 25 per cent above the European average of 52 burglaries per 1,000 homes, and way ahead of Norway, bottom of the league with two per thousand.

BSK buys Autocast

BSK HOLDINGS, the management buyout that bought Bromsgrove Automotive from Bromsgrove Industries for £16.5 million last year, is expanding its turnover by a third with the acquisition of Autocast, an aluminium diecaster and machinist, for £9.5 million. The deal will make BSK one of Britain's largest aluminium diecasters, with sales of more than £50 million and 900 employees. Autocast, of Bourne, Lincolnshire, concentrates on high-volume production and will complement BSK's facilities in Peterborough.

Asymmetry raises £4m

OXFORD ASYMMETRY has raised £4 million by issuing new shares to venture capital companies to continue its research into mirror-image drugs. The company, a buyout from Oxford University's Dyson Perrin laboratories in 1991, is researching ways of refining complex chemicals to remove potentially dangerous impurities formed of the same elements but assembled back to front. It hopes eventually to sell techniques to drug companies. The equity financing was led by 3i Group. Barclays Bank is providing lending facilities.

F&C investment move

THE completion of a £75 million fundraising by Foreign & Colonial Ventures has created a novel vehicle for investing in management buyouts and providing development capital for unquoted companies. Foreign & Colonial Private Equity Partners, the new vehicle, has been structured to satisfy the divergent needs of different classes of investor. It comprises three funds — a partnership, which is attractive to US and Canadian investors, and two investment trusts, which appeal to UK insurance companies and pension funds.

Optare catches the bus

OPTARE, the Leeds bus-builder, lifted sales from 300 to almost 500 buses during its first year of ownership by management and employees. Sales surged 26 per cent to £29 million. Russell Richardson, managing director, predicted further sales increases this year, underpinned by a recovery in the UK bus market and increased exports. During 1994, more than 120 of Optare's MetroRider midi-buses were supplied in kit form for assembly in Malaysia. Exports are set to rise further under a five-year, £25 million contract.

Ratner's buyer finds sales success in Far East

By Jon Ashworth

THE MAN who used to purchase jewellery by the truckload for Gerald Ratner is cleaning up in the Far East.

Shoppers from Hong Kong to Taiwan are snapping up silver-plated dinner plates and candlestick holders bearing the magic label "Made in Britain". The nations that fill our Christmas crackers with cheap plastic toys are, at last, taking something back.

Jon White, aged 30, who used to purchase goods for the H. Samuel jewellery chain, reports insatiable demand from the Far East for his range of silver-plated products. Falstaff, a two-man company based in Wednesbury, in the West Midlands, achieved nearly £1 million in sales in 1994, after just one year in business.

One of Mr White's top-sellers is a set of glasses on a silver-plated tray — a product all too familiar to Mr Ratner. In April 1991, in a fateful speech to the Institute of Directors, the former jewellery king made reference to a cut-glass sherry decanter with six glasses on a silver-plated tray. "People say 'How can you sell this for such a low price?'," he mused. "I say 'Because it is total crap'."

Now, the item that was to spell Mr Ratner's doom has been born again. Mr White insists that the quality of his silver and glassware is far superior. "It's a much better product," he said. "We can't seem to make them fast enough."

Mr White took the contacts he had made buying goods from the Orient and set up on his own. "People in the Far East wanted better goods than they actually made," he said. "I knew the silver-plate trade, and thought I'd see if they'd take the bait. The response has been phenomenal."

Locals in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia can choose from bottle drip catchers — a snip at £2.50 — to the famous glass and tray sets, which sell for £40.

A new market is opening in the Middle East, where Arabs are flocking to buy gold-rimmed tea glasses and gold-plated hors d'oeuvre dishes. Australia's largest department store group has begun stocking Falstaff goods.

Could Mr White be the next Gerald Ratner? He certainly does not lack enthusiasm. "We had a tremendous year," he says. "Sales reached £940,000, and we have orders of £50,000 to £60,000 pending. I'm looking to set up in America, where the potential is enormous."

Budding entrepreneurs, take note.

UK trade in China, page 40

Albright targets China for growth

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the British chemical company that is expected to float on the stock market next month, is planning up to nine joint ventures in China as part of its international expansion drive.

Robin Paul, the chief executive, outlined ambitious plans to establish the company in China as he announced its first venture there. Albright has taken a 50 per cent stake in a new venture to build a surfactants plant in Changsha, Hunan Province, with the Hunan Resun Industrial General Corporation. "This was a venture we decided to fund since we felt we could build a successful partnership with these people," said Dr Paul.

The deal will cost Albright less than $10 million, but gives the company the opportunity to supply multinational companies such as Procter & Gamble and Unilever, which are also expanding into China. The surfactants produced by the new plant can be used in a wide range of soaps, shampoos and toothpastes.

Dr Paul said Albright was already talking to two Chinese companies about a second prospective investment to build a phosphates plant. He said the group could well announce a venture this year.

The company, whose finance director is Michael Winstanley, is expected to issue its pathfinder prospectus this month. The flotation is expected to value the company at £600 million.

Robin Paul and Michael Winstanley

Answers from page 44

JAWBONING

(c) Making use of the government's vestigial authority and prestige to persuade chairmen of privatised public utilities, and other such fat cats, to moderate their emoluments and other packages of rewards in the national interest, and to set an example to the workers. Much like a deer using its authority and prestige to persuade a hyena to moderate its demands in the interest of environmentalism. Hence the reference to the jawbone, which is all that remains of the deer.

TERATOSIS

(a) A biological freak or monstrosity, from the Greek *teras* a monster or wonder. Hence *teratism* love or adoration of the monstrous. "You have spent more than half an hour on the telephone with your latest boyfriend, Juliet. I can only admire your mutual teratism."

EPHEDRA

(c) A member of the genus of low evergreen trailing shrubs so called, belonging to the family Gnetaceae and sometimes called shrubby horsetails. From the Greek *ephedra* sitting upon. Vladimir Nabokov, *Gift*, 1963: "Those plants that to the last remain faithful to travellers: stunted ammodendrons, lasiagrostis, and ephedras."

MACERATE

(c) To soften by soaking, as when leaving, for example, venison to soak in a mixture of vinegar and spices, from the Latin *macerare*, to macerate, perhaps cognate with the Greek *massein* to knead. "Oh mother, it really is *too* much. Anatole is at it again. I cannot get into the bathroom. The door is locked and he has been in there for at least an hour. I am sure he must be macerating."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rh1! Qg5 2 Rh5 traps the black queen

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.00
Austria Sch	17.91	16.41
Belgium Fr	52.52	48.22
Canada $	2.335	2.175
Cyprus Cyp£	0.781	0.726
Denmark Kr	10.09	9.29
Finland Mkk	8.01	7.36
France Fr	8.76	8.11
Germany Dm	2.56	2.35
Greece Dr	395.00	370.00
Hong Kong $	12.82	11.82
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Italy Lira	2655.00	2500.00
Japan Yen	169.50	153.50
Malta	0.618	0.563
Netherlds Gld	2.846	2.616
Norway Kr	11.12	10.32
Portugal Esc	259.50	241.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.30
Spain Pta	217.50	203.50
Sweden Kr	12.39	11.59
Switzerland Fr	2.15	1.97
Turkey Lira	refer	60619.0
USA $	1.669	1.539

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5693 (+0.0151)
German mark
2.4050 (-0.0157)
Exchange index
79.5 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2345.8 (-11.4)
FT-SE 100
3048.3 (-16.7)
New York Dow Jones
3908.46 (+41.05)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
19331.17 (-188.29)

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity -
The Nalgo Welfare Fund
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference MOT-205762A/1-CD(Ldn4). Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

Fresh Air-Sportsmaster Limited
Registered Number: 1603964
Former Company name
Fresh Air Sportswear Limited
Trading Name:
Fresh Air-Sportsmaster Limited
Nature of Business:
T-shirt printers
Trade Classification: 4889
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver:
10 January 1995
Name of person Appointing Administrative Receiver:
Singer & Friedlander Limited
Names of person appointed:
M P Riley of Clark Whitehill & Co
25 New Street Square
London
EC4A 3LN,
(Office Holder No. 005778).
Administrative Receiver.

G RAWS & SONS LIMITED
Principal Trading Address:
32 Porter Street,
Liverpool, L3 7BL
Company Number
127454
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Abbey House, 74 Mosley Street, Manchester, M60 2AT on 23 January 1995 at 3.00pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986. N J Dargan of Touche Ross & Co, Abbey House, 74 Mosley Street, Manchester, M60 2AT will provide creditors free of charge with information concerning the company's affairs.
Dated 12 January 1995
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J G Raws
DIRECTOR

P L Prints Limited
Registered Number: 1201421
Trading Name:
P L Prints Limited
Nature of Business:
T-shirt printers
Trade Classification: 4889
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver:
10 January 1995
Name of person Appointing the Administrative Receiver:
Singer & Friedlander Limited
Names of person appointed:
M P Riley of Clark Whitehill & Co
25 New Street Square
London
EC4A 3LN.
(Office Holder No. 005778).
Administrative Receiver.

No.007691 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
JAMES MARTIN HOLDINGS
LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 20th December 1994 CONFIRMING THE REDUCTION of the Share Premium Account of the above named JAMES MARTIN HOLDINGS by US$2,611,676 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 30th December 1994.
Dated this 9th January 1995.
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Solicitors for the above-named Company (Ref: 45)

No.006248 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
LONDON BRITANNIA HOTEL
LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 2nd November 1994 CONFIRMING THE REDUCTION of the Share Premium Account of the above named LONDON BRITANNIA HOTEL LIMITED by £16,445,796 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 30th December 1994.
Dated this 9th January 1995.
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Solicitors for the above-named Company (Ref: 46)

No.006249 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
LONDON MAY FAIR HOTEL
LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 2nd November 1994 CONFIRMING THE REDUCTION of the Share Premium Account of the above named LONDON MAY FAIR HOTEL LIMITED by £29,418,302 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 30th December 1994.
Dated this 9th January 1995.
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Solicitors for the above-named Company (Ref: 46)

LCG Outer Limits Limited
Registered Number: 2348493
Former Company name:
Outer Limits Limited
Trading Name:
LCG Outer Limits Limited
Nature of Business: Distribution of licensed clothing products
Trade Classification: 8128
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver:
10 January 1995
Name of person Appointing the Administrative Receiver:
Singer & Friedlander Limited
Names of person appointed:
M P Riley of Clark Whitehill & Co
25 New Street Square
London
EC4A 3LN.
(Office Holder No. 005778).
Administrative Receiver.

Licensed Clothing
International Limited
Registered Number: 2301863
Former Company name:
Belsheen Limited
Trading Name: Licensed Clothing International Limited
Nature of Business:
T-shirt design & distribution
Trade Classification: 8128
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver:
10 January 1995
Name of person Appointing the Administrative Receiver:
Singer & Friedlander Limited
Names of person appointed:
M P Riley of Clark Whitehill & Co
25 New Street Square
London
EC4A 3LN.
(Office Holder No. 005778).
Administrative Receiver.

LENSONFERN LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
Company number: 1290019
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
LENSONFERN LIMITED
On 6 January 1995 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Peter Sheldon Padmore FCA of Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton. SO14 3QG was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator at the above address by 23 February 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 12 January 1995
Peter Sheldon Padmore
Liquidator

Licensed Merchandise Group plc
Registered Number: 2301863
Former Company name:
Licensed Clothing Group Limited
Trading Name: Licensed Merchandising Group plc
Nature of Business:
Holding Company
Trade Classification: 9500
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver:
10 January 1995
Name of person Appointing the Administrative Receiver:
Singer & Friedlander Limited
Names of person appointed:
M P Riley of Clark Whitehill & Co
25 New Street Square
London
EC4A 3LN.
(Office Holder No. 005778).
Administrative Receiver.

NO. 006130 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT
OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER of
TEA TRADE PROPERTIES
LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER of
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
Notice is hereby given that a PETITION was on 21 December 1994 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the CONFIRMATION of the REDUCTION of the SHARE CAPITAL of the above-named Company from £100,000 to £947.81.
And Notice is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 25th day of January 1995.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 12th day of January 1995.
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St. Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH
Tel: 071 329 4422
Ref: 48
Solicitors for the above-named Company

SJPC 5 LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
Company number: 1110857
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
SJPC 5 LIMITED
On 6 January 1995 the company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Peter Sheldon Padmore FCA of Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton. SO14 3QG was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator at the above address by 23 February 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 12 January 1995
Peter Sheldon Padmore
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
MOTTIK INTERNATIONAL
LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of Creditors in the above matter is to be held at SHERLOCK HOLMES HOTEL, 108 BAKER STREET, LONDON, W1H 1LD, on 25th January 1995 at 11.00AM.
1. To consider the Joint Administrators' proposals under Section 23 (1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a creditors' committee.
A proxy form is enclosed which should be completed and returned to the Joint Administrators by the date of the meeting if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to us not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of your claim.
M.C. OLDHAM
The Joint Administrator
Latham Crossley & Davis
7 Kenrick Place
London
W1H 3FF

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY
& PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344 OR FAX: 071-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Challenge of history for steady Lamberto

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Eddie George for prime minister? Not in England perhaps. In Italy, asking the central bank's experienced number two to run the country, rather than to become Governor, scarcely caused a ripple — except in the financial markets, where prices surged to greet "one of us". Lamberto Dini quickly promised a government of technocrats free of party ties.

The joys of a supposedly apolitical businessmen's government have excited the British establishment from time to time. During the Wilson years, one press baron foolishly used the front page to call for such leaders, ostensibly because the real ones were avoiding tough economic decisions. The businessmen, it was assumed, would take tough-but-fair no-nonsense measures. To no one's astonishment but his own, he was swiftly dethroned.

Another bout of fantasy surfaced in the early Thatcher years, about the time when the nascent Social Democratic Party, as yet untainted by policies, won majority support in opinion polls. In this case, the Government had taken tough, no-nonsense measures, but these were driving the economy rapidly into its worst post-war slump. If a board of directors replaced it, the clubmen mused, they would steer a sensible pragmatic course, guided by the bottom-line national interest rather than fancy theoretical ideas. How the businessmen would have addressed the invasion of the Falklands was, thankfully, never tested.

Shortly afterwards, I chanced to interview a prominent figure in the business establishment who, it appeared to me, would have expected a prominent role in this business administration, possibly even the top one. A decent cove. But I came away hoping that no one in their right mind would ever think of such a thing again. For better or worse, British businessmen are generally not corporatists, members of some elite network who happen to be running industry rather than a bank, university, or ministry.

Most are individualists, successful but impatient dictators who drive their boards with a can-do mentality that brooks no sustained objection. They have little time or inclination to see things in the round or to pay more than lip-service to anything beyond the main priority. In tough times like recessions or emergencies, such methods are the best: for long-term strategy, perhaps not. But the predominant culture of today's chief executives would not even allow them to run a professional partnership without strife, let alone the body politic. Voting partners have to be won over, a tiresome if better arrangement, whereas executives, or Cabinet juniors, can usually be relied on to pretend they agree with the boss's pronouncements.

Even in Italy, spiritual home of corporatism, governments of technocrats do not generally last long. Their job is to push through the necessary tough measures before squabbling politicians resume their accustomed places. If Signor Dini manages to form a government, his priority will be the state pension cuts his predecessor shelved in the wake of massive public demonstrations. Yet it is no accident that Italy tends to thrust forward the central bankers it so reveres. The structure of public finances, bizarre by normal European standards, often works well enough, but requires periodic injections of confidence more than all-round good government.

For decades, Italy has combined Nordic levels of public spending — 56 per cent of gross domestic product last year — with Mediterranean levels of tax-collecting. Result: chronic deficits. The annual borrowing requirement has averaged more than 10 per cent of GDP stretching back to the 1970s. But much of this was used to finance growth of the vast state industrial sector. Inflation, though high, has not been much worse than in Britain — hence the Bank of Italy's high repute. What the public did not provide in taxes, it financed instead from the country's high personal savings. Italians used to save about twice as much as Britons. And the inevitable lack of confidence has left the lira chronically weak, usually giving Italy export growth and a respectable trade balance. The price was high interest rates, but the economy still grew faster than the EC average through most of the 1970s and 1980s.

Gradually, however, the imbalances have built up into a tottering top-heavy structure. The national debt has grown to 120 per cent of GDP, marginally below Belgium's but more than twice the burden in Britain, France or Germany. And as the national debt has built up, so has the interest. Fifteen years ago, it absorbed 4 per cent of GDP. Now it takes more than 10 per cent, eating up the entire Budget deficit.

That means excess government spending is no longer doing anything to stimulate the economy or to offset the damper of high money interest rates. Indeed, Italians have got used to their splendid welfare system and save less and less, if not yet so little as the British. To finance the deficit, therefore, the state must either crowd out private investment or rely more on foreign lenders, developing a Mexican-style nexus between lira weakness and higher domestic interest rates. Since 1987, this naturally dynamic economy has grown even slower than the EC average, providing a lesson for anyone who still believes in the illusory benefits of deficit finance.

To prop up this edifice, the lira needs the boost to confidence that a central banker's skills can bring. But that is not enough. Signor Dini can speed privatisation of enterprises now held back by the state. Dismantling the coked-up locomotive that once powered Italy, without stranding the train, would be an heroic labour for a decade or more — not something for a temporary team of technocrats without a popular mandate.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

◆

Jumping the broom

HOW strange to see so much team spirit flowing between rival institutions in the City. There must be something about the obscure Arctic game of broomball that causes burning rivalry to melt. The winning team in the GE Information Services tournament at the Broadgate rink last week was Euroclear London, comprising players from Yamaichi, Lehman Brothers, Northern Trust, Baring Brothers and, naturally, Euroclear. Broomball players of the world unite!

Handy cash

IN WHAT appeared to be an imitation of plans to cut the number of railway ticket offices, National Westminster Bank put up a sign in Welshpool, Powys, telling savers that the nearest cashpoint machines were in far-off Devon. In fact, the nearest hole-in-the-wall was only 14 miles away. David Cornish, the Welshpool branch manager has wisely ordered the erroneous sign to be removed.

On his metal

RONALDO SCHMITZ, the man Deutsche Bank picked to oversee its international investment banking operation in London will have to devote much time to defending his role in the Metallgesellschaft (MG) disaster, if the latest salvo from Heinz Schimmelbusch, the ex-MG management board chairman, is any guide. Schimmelbusch, now backed by a number of US derivatives experts, has blamed Schmitz, supervisory board chairman of MG, for causing the metal company's huge losses on oil futures by unwinding them. Noisy rows will hardly fit the cool image Deutsche wants in the City.

Withdrawal

AS REGULAR readers of these columns and British Invisibles will know, the concept of invisible earnings is difficult for some to grasp. So how about invisible banking? *The Bankers' Almanac* has issued a correction to its July 1994 edition which notes that "Banque Populaire de Sanary" does not exist.

COLIN NARBROUGH

David Rudnick explains why Frankfurt needs British standards

German boardrooms blink in clear light of disclosure

A wind of change is blowing through German boardrooms. Historically, Germany's corporate strength has come from stable, long-term financial support from powerful shareholding house banks. This has released German companies from the proverbial short-term twitching of their British and American competitors, providing breathing space for strategic planning and long-range investment untroubled by fears of shareholders' strikes or hostile takeover bids.

But times are changing. A study by Christian Wenk, of Standard & Poor's, the credit-rating agency, confirms that German companies are relying less on banks' lending and support. It suggests that they are increasingly frequenting international bond markets, and showing more predilection for the Anglo-Saxon habit of listing on domestic and international stock markets. While an equity culture has yet to emerge in Germany — there are still fewer than 700 quoted companies — a cultural shift does seem to be under way.

Deregulation and privatisation are likely to accelerate the process, albeit gradually. But the Government has already sold over half its stake in Lufthansa, and Deutsche Telekom's partial sell-off is imminent.

Ambitions to promote Frankfurt as a leading European financial centre — Finanzplatz Deutschland — are adding further impetus, even if London remains unrivalled as the nerve centre of the world investment banking. (Deutsche Bank's recent move to the Square Mile eloquently proves the point). But to attract big international investors such as UK and American institutions, much higher standards of company disclosure are called for.

They are on the way. Up to now, German companies have had to disclose only those shareholdings exceeding 25 per cent, against a disclosure threshold as low as 3 per cent in Britain.

Frankfurt has ambitions to become one of Europe's leading financial centres

Legislation introduced on January 1 will require disclosure of block shareholdings of more than 5 per cent, which should make it easier to disentangle Germany's complex patterns of shareholding and cross-ownership, and pinpoint companies' principal shareholders.

In a similar attempt to catch up with the Anglo-Saxons, Bonn introduced stringent legislation in August outlawing insider trading. Respectable academic opinion had regarded it as helping to smooth market trading by stimulating as well as manipulating the market, but pressure from a raft of EU directives aimed at protecting investors, combined with the refusal of foreign companies to look at a Frankfurt listing while insider trading remained legal, finally swept the anachronism away.

But Germany's accounting system is still opaque by British or American standards. Mr Wenk cites an old adage: a good balance sheet in Germany is better than it looks; a bad one is worse. This distortion arises from income smoothing — rounding figures up or down to iron out distortions caused by normal short-term cyclical fluctuations.

Such flexibility may startlingly affect the way companies report their results. Mr Wenk explains: "In prosperous periods German companies state profits conservatively in order to ensure sufficient reserves to support earnings and meet commitments to creditors in harder times." This might explain how Daimler-Benz last year recorded a DM600 million profit in German terms and DM1 billion in US terms.

Mary Keegan, director of professional standards at the accountants Price Waterhouse, adds that UK and US company accounts are similar in strictly reflecting today's environment, while the German approach takes account of a longer-term trend. Stating profits conservatively also, of course, reduces the company's tax bill.

On the downside, it may unintentionally depress the share price, and as German companies slowly start reducing their overwhelming reliance on bank borrowing and woo equity funding instead, they are beginning to realise they cannot go on automatically treating shareholders' interests as secondary to those of bank creditors.

One or two German corporates are already showing the rough with the smooth in their accounts. In order to get a listing on the New York stock exchange, Daimler-Benz has had to comply with NYSE disclosure requirements. "They are sometimes accused of being traitors to German accounting practice," says Mr Wenk, "but they reply that Anglo-Saxon accounting standards are inevitably emerging as the international norm, in the way English has emerged as the financial world's lingua franca." Other companies including Lufthansa, Deutsche Telekom and Veba, the energy-based conglomerate, are thought likely to follow in Daimler's footsteps (or tyre tracks) and seek a US listing on US terms. The EU is doing it bit too, with directives aimed at harmonising European accounting systems. More open financial reporting is part of a general change in the philosophy of corporate governance affecting Germany and other EU partners as the implications of the single European market sink in.

Market-based convergence of corporate strategy across the EU is likely to mean less emphasis on consensus and more exposure to market forces for German corporates. The weaker ones will be less protected from takeover bids, so opportunities for mergers and acquisitions should increase, helped, according to Douglas Paterson, chairman of the German markets group at consultants Coopers & Lybrand, by the "European passport" allowing free establishment of financial services across the EU.

A case for monetary tightening

GILT-EDGED

Monetary tightening dampens demand in many ways. The exchange rate (absent a crisis) is supported by higher short rates, and mortgage rates shift spending power from borrowers (high spenders) to people with cash on deposit (who tend to save). Wealth effects operate via the public's holdings of stocks and bonds as well as property in the US, but only the latter is important in the UK, where the current sluggishness of house prices, partly attributable to rising short rates, helps to make consumers very cautious. Moreover, dearer money may cause postponement of investment and consumption, although such effects are difficult to detect and depend on long yields as well as short rates.

One other route can at times be the most important of all: choking off the availability of finance. In theory, poor credits should lose access first. In the bad old days of credit rationing in the UK 15 years ago, the first person in the queue on the first day of the month got the money. The financial system in the UK and US is now better, not least because the relatively transparent corporate bond market has gained market share from the banks. Even so, the process of cutting off funds can still create some spectacular discontinuities.

For central bankers, the dilemma is that they want to deprive poorer credits of funds, because this is such an important transmission mechanism for monetary policy, but they want the move to be orderly. Getting the balance right is difficult enough in a country such as Germany where financial innovation is slow, and almost impossible in nations where the system changes rapidly.

The massive inflow of funds to emerging markets has stoked up a boom, with industrial output in major Latin American nations rising some 10 per cent over the past year, and in emerging Asia at almost twice that pace. Until recently, it had seemed that there might be some limited effect on these regions from Fed tightening, but apparently it would not be comparable to the debt crisis of the early 1980s, because that resulted from over-exposure by banks, whereas this time the flow of funds was in the more transparent and liquid form of equity portfolio investment. In short, it seemed that any withdrawal of funds would be orderly.

Recent crises in countries from Mexico to Thailand show that this complacency was misplaced. Funds are being cut off with the brutality of an on-off switch, not the subtlety of a dimmer. A similar effect is visible in Europe. The veiled hint of a move to tighter policy by the Bundesbank has destabilised currencies and bond markets in the high-debt, low-credibility countries.

Although there will not be political and economic instability on the scale that followed the debt crisis 15 years ago, policies are already being tightened in nations ranging from Argentina and Canada to Sweden and Spain. The sources of rapid global growth, which helped the UK to enjoy an export-led recovery and a balance of payments move into surplus last year, will falter during 1995, creating a worldwide slowdown, perhaps even recession.

This is double-edged for gilts. By the end of the year, it means a global environment of less growth and lower bond yields. It means a Fed funds rate around the 7 per cent level rather than 8 per cent or higher as some had feared. In response, the Bundesbank will probably tighten less than the market fears. Meanwhile, the hurdle that the UK has to jump to be classed as credible has been raised. The slightest sign of backsliding will be punished by an unfriendly international market, so Chancellor Clarke would be well advised to start outdoing Governor George in pressing for rate rises. The result would be rapid rate rises over the next few months, but a low peak, perhaps 7.5 per cent this summer. If the result of moving fast is a touch of monetary overkill, then Mr Clarke may not mind too much, since a sharply slowing economy at the end of this year would make it far easier to justify tax cuts to Mr George.

GILES KEATING
Chief Economist
CS First Boston

RADIO CHOICE

The sound of LSO music

The LSO: 90 Legendary Years. *Classic FM, 7.00pm.*

I predict that Jon Tolansky's history of the London Symphony Orchestra will be quoted in years to come as radio's most detailed charting to date of a musical ensemble's fortunes. Tolansky presents the series, produces it and does the interviewing. The script, too, is his — and here he plays his trump card. Having control of his material, he can balance his own judgment of the LSO's accomplishments against that of past and present conductors and players. And always, there are the excerpts from LSO recordings which say to us, in effect, "If you don't believe what you've just been told, then just you listen to this!". Tonight's episode is a roll-call of great conductors during the 11 years André Previn was the LSO's principal conductor.

A Book at Bedtime. *Radio 4, 10.45pm.*

George MacDonald Fraser's readings from his book *Quartered Safe Out Here* help to explain how he came by the military know-how that informs his Flashman novels. It is an account of the time he spent fighting the Japanese in Burma in 1945. He was a section scout with the 17th Black Cat Division of the 14th Army. Churchill called it the greatest army since Xerxes crossed the Hellespont. You must wait for tomorrow night's episode to be reminded of Fraser's talent for making lightning sketches that capture the fundamentals of character. Tonight, he describes what was, literally, his first smell of the enemy.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Bruno Brookes **6.30** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa L'Anson, including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** *Mark Goodier, including at* **4.20** The Amazing Spiderman **7.00** Evening Session, including Smash or Trash, a review of new releases **9.00** Lee and Herring comedy series **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** *Martin Kelner* with the Early Show **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory **7.30** Bob Holness with Dance Band Days and at **8.00** Big Band Era **8.30** Big Band Special, the BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **10.00** Distant Voices: Statesman and Women **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes **1.00** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00 Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, including at **6.55** and **7.55** Racing Preview **8.35** The Magazine with Diana Madill, including at **10.35** Euronews and at **11.00** Actuality **12.00** Midday with Mar, including at **12.34pm** Liz Barclay with Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide news, sport and travel reports **7.00** News Extra, including at **7.20** sports results of the day in full **7.35** Giant Killers' 1992 Wrexham v Arsenal **8.00** The Monday Match **10.05** News Talk, with Niall Dickson **11.00** Night Extra including at **11.45** The Financial World Tonight **12.05** The Other Side of Midnight, with Linda McDermott and Tim Grundy **2.00** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp, featuring Update USA

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT** **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** Fruhmagazin **5.00** Newshour **6.00** Morgenmagazin **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** *Oscar and Lucinda* **7.30** In the Shadow of the Bomb **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Health **8.30** Anything Goes **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Lances to Lasers **9.30** The Learning World **9.45** Sport **10.00** News **10.01** The Rape of Mitteleuropa **10.30** Vintage Chart Show **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **12.00** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Inspiration **12.45** Sport **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** *Oscar and Lucinda* **2.45** Multitrack Sessions **3.00** News **3.15** AD **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** Business **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** News **7.05** Outlook **7.30** Poets of Place **7.45** Health **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Hit List **12.00** News **12.15** A Jolly Good Show **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Folk Routes **1.45** Health **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Inspiration **3.00** News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** John Peel **4.00** Newsdesk.

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Joan Thirkettle **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Alan Mann **6.00** Classic Reports **7.00** The London Symphony Orchestra: 90 Legendary Years. See Choice **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Paul Coyle **11.00** Nick Abbot **2.00am** Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather
7.00 On Air Vivaldi (Concerto in G for two mandolins); Holst (Oriental Suite, Beni Mora); Debussy (Children's Corner); Dukas (The Sorcerer's Apprentice); Mendelssohn (On Wings of Song, Op 34 No 2); Bach (Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The works Mozart left incomplete (r)
10.00 Musical Encounters. *Artist of the Week*: Anthony Halstead, harpsichord, horn and conductor. Bach (*Brandenburg Concerto No 3* in G), Schein (Venite Exultemus Domino); Abel (Symphony in E flat, Op 17 No 1): Victor Davies (Mennonite Piano Concerto); Mozart, compl John Humphries (Horn Concerto No 1 in D), Hindemith (Quartet for clarinet and strings)
12.00 The Essential Guide to Plot Devices: Rodney Milnes ends his series with the *Deus ex Machina*
1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor; *Kasia Elsner*, lute. A programme of songs
2.00 Schools: Twentieth-Century Soundbites **2.15** Storybook **2.25** Let's Move **2.45** First Steps in Drama
3.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Fedor Glushchenko, Bernard Roberts, piano. *Beethoven* (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor) (r)
3.45 20th-Century English Organ Sonatas: Kevin Bowyer plays the organ of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol. Howells (Sonata No 1 in C minor); John Somers-Cocks (Sonata No 1)
4.30 Hot Keys: Continuing the series on the American pianist James P. Johnson
5.00 The Music Machine: with Tommy Pearson
5.15 In Tune: with Richard Baker
7.30 Music for a While: To mark the 90th birthday of Sir Michael Tippett and the 300th anniversary of Purcell's death. *Purcell* (Suite: Bonduca). *Tippett (Piano Sonata No 2)*: Purcell (Chaconne; Fairest Isle, King Arthur); Michael Berkeley (Dark Sleep, first performance, BBC commission). **8.25** Interval: Peter Donohoe on the music of Sir Michael Tippett; **8.45** Tippett (Piano Sonata No 3): Purcell (*Masque*, Timon of Athens)
9.40 Face and Fantasy: The faces of famous personalities of Tudor and Stuart England
10.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Symphony Orchestra under Mark Wigglesworth; Jard van Nes, contralto. Tristan Keuris (Songs for Michelangelo): *Louis Andriessen (De Snelheid)*
10.45 Mixing It: with Robert Sandall and Mark Russell
11.30-12.30am Music Restored Bach (Sonata No 6 in G), Biber (Rosary Sonata No 2 in A); *Scarlatti* (Harpsichord Sonatas: in B minor): Noblet (Sonata in C)
1.00-2.00 Night School. Letterbox **1.20** Singing Together

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping **6.00** News **6.10** Farming **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today including **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Who Goes Home? Roy Hattersley recalls the years 1950-1964 **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and *Times* columnist Brenda Maddox. With Professor John Morton, Jostein Gaarder, Michael Eaton, Danah Zohar
10.00-10.30 News; Questions of Taste (FM only). The light-hearted food and drink quiz
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Pilgrim's Progress (LW only) (6/25)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Money Box Live: 071-580 4444 with Vincent Duggleby
12.00 News; You and Yours with Daire Brehan
12.25pm Counterpoint: Heat three of the musical quiz **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; A Rainbow in the Night, by R. J. Gallagher. *Paris, 1937. "The blind need* to be liberated by one of their own. They need the inspiration, the self-respect. They don't need the truth." Was Louis Braille right to hide the truth in the name of duty? With Suzanne Burden (r)
3.00 Anderson Country
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope
4.45 Short Story: The Hammer Man, written by Toni Cade Bambara (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Forecast Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute: Join chairman Nicholas Parsons and guests Clement Freud, Tony Hawks, Hugh Dennis and Kit Hesketh-Harvey (r)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: L B J — Some Kind of Monument. The final part of Mike Walker's play looks at Lyndon Baines Johnson's presidency and the legacy of the Vietnam War. With William Hootkins, Bob Sherman, Lorelei King and Joanne Macinnes
9.00 Road to Redemption: Nick Baker recalls the days of Green Shield stamps (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight: with Robin Lustig
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Quartered Safe Out Here. See Choice
11.00-11.30 Good Lookers (FM only) Magnum photographer David Hurn talks to Chris Stuart (r)
11.00-11.30 Education Matters (LW only)
11.30-12.00 The Three Musketeers (FM only): Alexandre Dumas's swashbuckling epic. D'Artagnan falls in love, and Cardinal Richelieu seeks to destroy the honour of the Queen. With Jamie Glover, Robert Glenister and Timothy Spall (2/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service **(LW)**

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Rabbiting by parrots, ferreting by a chef

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

A big green parrot perches expectantly on a suburban clothes line, watched by its doting female owner. It's show time, folks — and how. Grasping the clothes line, the owner whips it in tiny circles, *so that* the parrot, gripping by its feet, submits to the complex laws of physics, and starts to rotate — forwards, down, back and over — at alarming speed. Ach, it's sad but true, television was invented for moments like this: for here is the medium's very apogee. The parrot continues to spin: it's really whizzing now! "Whee!" says the owner. "Whee!" echoes the parrot, its little body a blur of colour. "Whee!" they say together.

Yesterday's **The Natural World** (BBC 2) was a cleverly paced programme, structured a bit like a Spielberg movie; just when you thought you'd grasped the full extent of the parrot's bizarre character, it came up with a gang of streetwise, rubber-eating New Zealand birds who can strip a whole car in a matter of minutes (although they were interrupted before they got the wheels off).

Of course, *Parrots — Look Who's Talking!* also dealt out the essential wildlife information about colour and mating (a nice narration job by Tony Robinson), *but the real* excitement was the trained parrot in the University of Arizona who can identify shapes the way chimps and dolphins can. "It's a square," it said, *shuffling* from one foot to another, as though keeping warm. "Can I have a nut?"

As always, the pleasure was in hearing the parrots mimic not only words but voices and accents. A Scottish budgie recited "To be or not to be" as "Tae be oower nat ta be" "Here, *darling*," an Australian *woman cooed to her parrot*, throwing him a ball on a driveway. She sounded like Dame Edna. He picked up the ball with his beak and threw it straight back. "Here, *darling*," he said in the same intonation, only from him it sounded suspiciously ironic.

Forget psittacosis: this dread word was unmentioned, and besides the parrot has an affectionate nature which will not be denied. In fact, it appears that when parrots are neglected they go mad — a fine, all-out, George III-type madness in which state they bob ceaselessly up and down and pull out their own feathers.

Interesting to see the infamous *Cracker* rape plot adapted for the first of a new series of **Pie in the Sky** (BBC 1) — a sex fiend eludes detection, and is then caught by our hero just at the point where he assaults the hero's own wife. In the mad, harmless, fantasy, *Lovejoy world of Sunday* drama, however, the sex fiend is not a terrifying rapist with a knife, but a nuisance caller whose interesting perversion is to talk clean, and who occasionally snatches fancy knickers from clothes lines. Not quite *Cracker*, then — unless of the Jacob's cream variety.

It was all pleasant enough, with nice performances from Richard Griffiths and Maggie Steed. But *Pie in the Sky is the sort of drama* that always makes me hope Martians aren't tuning in; there would be so much explaining to do afterwards. Anyway, yesterday's sub-plot concerned the roving cheese man (the man was the rover, not the cheese), whose van seemed unnecessarily enormous unless it had cows in the back, and who delivered mozzarella and stilton to all the restaurants where the sex fiend's victims could be found. Was the cheese man the sex fiend? Or did his parmesan just reek of red herring? (Guess.)

The nice thing about *Pie in the Sky* is that, unlike *Chef!*, it's not *snobbish about food. When Griffiths* orders the scallops and lamb at a swanky hotel restaurant, the manager comments "Good choice" and leaves it at that. Admittedly, Griffiths suggests to his old policeman pal that stilton goes nicely with sauterne instead of port, but surely this is a handy tip for stick-*in-the-muds everywhere.*

My only real objection to last night's story was the tiresome requisite scene in the Gents, with characters unmistakeably widdling against tiles, and then doing that unpleasantly graphic jig-jig business with the fronts of their trousers. Do they really have to? I feel compelled to point out that we've all seen it before.

Granada's series of screen essays, **God Bless America** (ITV), started off well last week with Scott Turow in Chicago, and dwindled somewhat last night with Neil Simon's New York. *The difference was that* Turow still works in Chicago, he watches the city from his skyscraper office window; as a writer who is also an attorney, he involves himself at street level in the city's crime and in its racial division.

The nostalgic Neil Simon, on the other hand, bemoans present-day New York: the city was so much better in the old days when the world was new. At Washington Square in Greenwich Village, where Simon's wife once famously *went barefoot in the park, there* are now punks, dossers, crack dealers and police patrol cars. "Broadway used to be the thrill of my life. Now, I just hope nothing happens to me."

It's always a bit hard to handle, when you discover that a funny writer is in person a humourless grouch. Accosted by an effusive member of his public in a Jewish restaurant ("I loved your play!") Simon seemed merely impatient. *"That's life," he commented, when* she'd gone.

Still, the film was beautifully made, with stunning aerial night images of lights and glass, and an ending lifted from Woody Allen's *Manhattan — Rhapsody in Blue* with fireworks. Simon no longer lives in New York, and his disconnection with street life could hardly have been clearer. It's no accident that his latest hit is *Laughter on the 23rd Floor.*

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (65622)

7.00 Breakfast News (18494852)

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (8832448)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1647968) **10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick**. Weekday magazine (s) (85919142)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7263516) **12.05 Pebble Mill**. Ross King and Gloria Hunniford *celebrate the launch of this year's Gold* Heart Appeal. The guests include the cast of the musical *Copacabana* (s) (3189581) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (78644245)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (37790)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (91391974) **1.50 Timekeepers**. Quiz (s) (91395790)

2.15 Knots Landing. American drama serial (s) (9983887) **3.00 Today's Gourmet**. Jacques Pepin *prepares a Vietnamese meal (2535)*

3.30 Cartoon (5521332) **3.45 Bodger and Badger** (5526887) **4.00 Jackanory**. Paul Merton with part one of *Puppy Fat* by Morris Gleitzman (s) (6447245) **4.10 The Legend of Prince Valiant**. (Ceefax) (s) (4497887) **4.35 Tomorrow's End** (r). (Ceefax) (4507974)

5.00 Newsround (6923429) **5.05 Blue Peter**. (Ceefax) (s) (4722185)

5.35 Neighbours *(r). (Ceefax) (s)* (443626)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (871)

6.30 Regional news magazines (351)

7.00 Champion Telly Addicts. The 1987 winners take *on the champions of 1989 (s) (4516)*

7.30 Watchdog. A holiday special presented by Anne Robinson. (Ceefax) (s) (535)

8.00 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (3264)

8.30 The Detectives. *Comedy series starring* Jasper Carrott, Robert Powell and George Sewell. (Ceefax) (s) (9871)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8451)

9.30 Panorama: Bad Blood. A documentary report on *the spread in Britain of hepatitis C (Ceefax)* (768413)

Tom Cruise and Barry Norman (10.10pm)

10.10 Tom Cruise — Film 95 Special. Barry Norman talks to Tom Cruise about his latest film *Interview with the Vampire*. (Ceefax) (s) (966535). **Northern Ireland:** The Back Page 10.35 Tom Cruise 11.05-1.00 Film: Revenge; **Wales:** The BBC Welsh Sports Personality of the Year 11.25 Tom Cruise 11.55-1.50 *Film: Revenge*

10.40 FILM: Revenge (1990) starring Kevin Costner, Anthony Quinn and Madeleine Stowe. Thriller about a Vietnam War veteran who is seduced by his friend's wife. The now former friend then exacts *revenge, leaving the man for dead. Directed by Tony* Scott. (Ceefax) (s) (40252784)

12.35am FILM: And Millions Will Die (1973) starring Richard Basehart and Leslie Nielsen. Environmental thriller about a canister of lethal gas buried beneath Hong Kong. Directed by Leslie Martinson (792630)

2.10 Weather (7962746)

BBC2

7.00 Dilly the Dinosaur *(r)* (4669871) **7.05 Bump** *(r)* (5988626) **7.15 Eli's Lesson**. Episode two. (Ceefax) (9013245) **7.35 Galaxy Goof-Ups** with Yogi Bear (r) (1155697)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (8046871)

8.15 The Record. A review of Friday's proceedings in Parliament (7561061)

8.35 Arthur Negus Enjoys Dodington, a Georgian mansion near Bristol (r) (4196784) **8.50 A Week to Remember** (b/w) (3195790)

9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Includes, for children **10.00-10.25** Playdays (9362531) **1.45** Words and Pictures (97100158) **2.00** Tales of Aesop (61505264) **2.05** Rupert (61504535)

2.10 FILM: Lady in a Corner (1989) starring Loretta Young and Brian Keith. The editor of a reputable women's magazine fights its takeover by a pornography publisher. Directed by Peter Levin. Includes **News** and weather at **3.00** (153055) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (1353005)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (264)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Cuisine magazine (s) (448)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Do residents do enough to protect their homes? Plus tips on protection from a professional burglar (s) (3646852)

5.40 Decisions. Victoria Gillick *talks about her challenge to the health authority over contraception for under* 16-year-olds (449595)

6.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (r) (806142) **6.45 Animation Now** (401697)

7.00 The Private Life of Plants (r). (Ceefax) (s) (513564)

7.50 Travel Show Short Cuts: Taking the Waters. The spa waters of Budapest and Lake Heviz (294992)

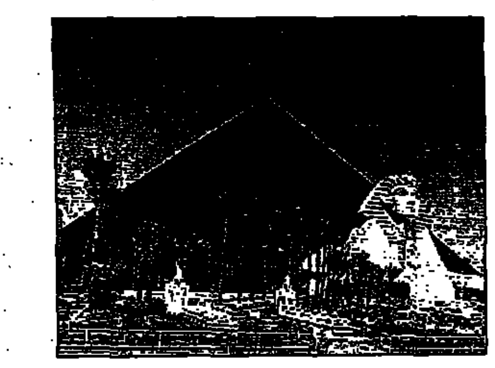
8.00 Horizon: Russia's Deep Secrets. (Ceefax) (s) (313790)

8.50 Lucinda Lambton's Alphabet of Britain. *H is for Heathrow*. (Ceefax) (s) (371697)

9.00 Steptoe and Son (r). (Ceefax) (4351)

9.30 ***Signs and Wonders**. (Ceefax)* (15061)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (770582)



The Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas (11.15pm)

11.15 Virtually Las Vegas (s) (641626)

11.55 Weather (471790)

12.00 News followed by **The Midnight Hour** (s) (5152562). Ends at **12.55am**

4.45 BBC Select: Disability Agenda (1498765)

5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update (r) (36036)

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CHOICE

Jodhi May joins a religious cult (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Signs and Wonders
BBC2, 9.30pm

Michael Eaton's curious drama is about a family which has gone spiritually off the rails. Clergyman Tim (David Warner) is cynical and disillusioned and preaches to a congregation of three. Son Stephen (Michael Maloney) has rejected conventional morality and puts his faith in a creepy guru (Donald Pleasence, with a black eye patch). Daughter Claire (Jodhi May) has run away to join a religious cult in Los Angeles. The relatively normal one is Tim's wife Elizabeth (Prunella Scales), who flies secretly to the United States to get Claire back. The English end of the story *is set in* Nottinghamshire against a background of pit closures, and there is a sub-plot involving MI5. So far, so baffling, but there are three more episodes to go.

Horizon: Russia's Deep Secrets
BBC2, 8.00pm

A report from the Russian Arctic highlights an embarrassing legacy of the Cold War. The old Soviet Union was the proud possessor of a huge fleet of nuclear submarines, each capable of destroying a complete city. Now that there are no cities to be destroyed, the subs lie rotting and unwanted. More than that, they are full of radioactivity which must be made safe. But there is neither the money nor the will to carry out the decommissioning of some 150 vessels and the fear is that the radioactivity may find its way into the food chain. The cameras capture the pathos of the rusting wrecks and go underwater to look for the remains of the *Komsomolets*, the atomic submarine which caught fire and sank in 1989.

Virtually Las Vegas
BBC2, 11.15pm

The contention of this *Late Show* special is that Las Vegas is not just a garish playground for the rich and frivolous, though it is certainly that, but worthy of serious cultural study. The film takes its cue from the husband-and-wife architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. Their book on *Las Vegas*, which came out in the late 1960s, horrified the architectural establishment in Britain as well as the United States by suggesting that hotels, casinos and, not least, huge neon signs, had a vitality and excitement from which so-called high art might profitably learn. Venturi and Scott Brown return to the city to see what has changed and other contributors take the pulse of the fastest growing metropolis in the United States.

Little Killers
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Wolf Island in the Galapagos has no fresh water and was never settled by man. The fierce Pacific swell is *enough to deter all but the most determined visitors.* But it is perfect nesting ground for seabirds and, if they can manage to get there, a choice territory for wildlife photographers. Friedemann Koester did make it, with his wife, Heide, and here are the fruits of their trip. The *unlikely star of their film is the ground finch*, a small bird but an aggressive one. Stealing the eggs of the much larger masked booby is only one of its activities. The more flamboyant is digging its sharp beak into the booby and sucking its blood. It also practises its *vampirism on Koester himself, after he is careless* enough to cut his arm.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV *(34023)*

9.25 Chain Letters Word game (4872326) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (1966910)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (9220332)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday family magazine (32168245) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7189500)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (7628158)

12.55 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (7636177)

1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (34928142) **1.55 Capital Woman** (90348546) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) (17030516) **2.50 Blue Heelers** (6051177)

3.20 ITN News *headlines* (5580448) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5589719)

3.30 Rainbow (r) (5532448) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (3153087) **3.50 Talespin** (r) (s) (4621887) **4.15 Harry's Mad** (Teletext) (s) (324697) **4.45 Art Attack** (Teletext) (s) (4425326)

5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (7877054)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (254500)

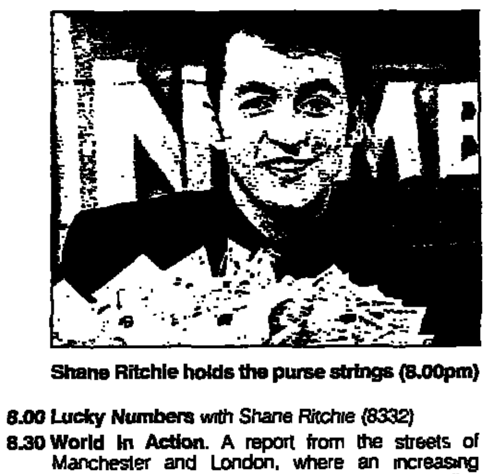
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (168210)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (239)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (719)

7.00 Wish You Were Here . . . ? Judith Chalmers samples the delights of Madagascar; Anna Walker *reports from an exclusive resort in Greece; and John* Carter offers a guide around the streets of Glasgow. (Teletext) (s) (6784)

7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (603)



Shane Ritchie holds the purse strings (8.00pm)

8.00 Lucky Numbers *with Shane Ritchie* (8332)

8.30 World In Action. A report from the streets of Manchester and London, where an increasing number of youngsters, some aged ten, officially live in children's homes but in reality live on the streets. (Teletext) (s) (1239)

9.00 FILM: Die Hard (1988) starring Bruce Willis as a New York policeman who is trapped in a Los Angeles office block with a gang of terrorists and their hostages. With Alan Rickman. Directed by John McTiernan (4413)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (79697)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (818887)

10.40 FILM: Die Hard (continued) (1169326)

12.05am The Equalizer (5155659)

1.00 Endsleigh League Football Extra (1684562)

1.45 Sport AM presented by Bob Symonds (388825)

2.45 Quiz Night. The Crown from Kent take on the Pear Tree from Liverpool in the first round of this year's contest (8346678)

3.10 FILM: Someone at the Door (1950, b/w) starring Michael Medwin. A young reporter plans to fake a *murder in order to gain a scoop* Directed by Francis Searle (6736543)

4.15 Profile. The Proclaimers (r) (s) (40982123)

4.30 Chrystal's Style Guide (r) (s) (18333524)

4.55 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (2377814)

5.30 ITN Morning News (23562). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Once Upon A Time — Life. *An animated* exploration of the human body (8092500)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (54413)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (52974)

9.30 Schools: Spring Term Preview Programme (8935413) **9.46** Talk, Write and Read (8021264) **10.02** Stage Two Science (5255448) **10.20** Place and People (9480968) **10.40** The English Programme (2903887) **11.05** Encyclopaedia Galactica (7518697) **11.15** The Music Show (6206956) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (99858096) **11.45** Junior Technology (9973061)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (69210)

12.30 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series The guest is Danny DeVito (45871)

1.30 Little Miss followed by **Paddington, Frootie Tooties** and **The Wombles** (80245)

2.00 Automania 2000. Cartoon (r) (41423581)

2.10 FILM: No Trees in the Street (1958, b/w) starring Sylvia Syms, Joan Miller and Herbert Lom. Melodramatic tale, set in a prewar London slum, about a young woman who is being forced by her mother to marry the local gang leader. Directed by J. Lee Thompson. (Teletext) (969158)

4.00 Profiles Of Nature: The Wonder Of Migration (r) (332)

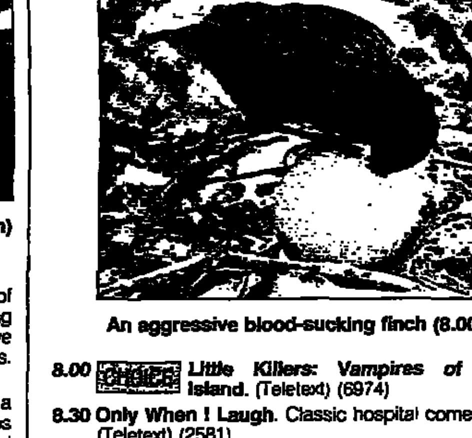
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (516)

5.00 The Golden Girls. Dorothy goes out on a blind date (6090) **5.30 Nurses**. Sandy faces up to the finality of her divorce (968)

6.00 The Cosby Show (r). (Teletext) (581)

6.30 Hangin' With Mr Cooper. *American high school* comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (531)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (218992) **7.50 The Slot** (153448)



An aggressive blood-sucking finch (8.00pm)

8.00 Little Killers: Vampires of Wolf Island. (Teletext) (6974)

8.30 Only When I Laugh. Classic hospital comedy (r). (Teletext) (2581)

9.00 A French Affair. The second of a two-part documentary following the fortunes of four British families who have made their home in the Dordogne (r) (s) (2055)

10.00 NYPD Blue: Trials and Tribulations. A repeat of the final episode of the New York police drama's last series, heralding the start next week of a new series. (Teletext) (193790)

10.55 FILM: Accattone (1961, b/w) starring Franco Citti, Silvana Corsini and Franca Pasut. Drama, set in Rome, about a young thug who gets his money by living off the earnings of a prostitute. When she is sent to prison, he finds love with an innocent woman who inadvertently leads him to his downfall. Pier Paolo Pasolini's first feature film (23310413)

1.05am Eye 2 Eye. A design quiz chaired by Steve Taylor (r) (5897217)

1.35 FILM: Head Over Heels In Love (1937, b/w) starring Jessie Matthews, Robert Flemyng and Louis Borell. Vintage British musical directed by Sonnie Hale (953920). Ends **3.10**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (1966910) 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News (7189500) 1.55 A Country Practice (91396429) 2.20 Keep it in the Family (17959697) 2.50-3.20 Blockbusters (6051177) 3.25-3.30 Anglia News and Weather (5589719) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7877054) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (243806) 10.30-10.40 Anglia News (818887) 1.45am The Sicilians (4060678) 3.55 The Time... the Place (9220765) 4.30 Yan Can Cook (91098) 5.00-5.30 Wanted Dead or Alive (71746)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (91396429) 2.20 Look and Cook (17959697) 2.50-3.20 Blockbusters (6051177) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7877054) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (243806) 12.05am-1.00 The Monday Night Fight (5155659) 4.15 Jobfinder (9829384) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (2004135)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (7636177) 1.25 Home and Away (51416413) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (6880245) 2.45-3.20 De Medici Kitchen (8239326) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (7877054) 6.25 Granada Tonight (243806) 7.00-7.30 Wish You Were Here...? (6784) 12.05am-1.00 The Equalizer (5155659) 1.45 Sport AM (388825) 2.45 Quiz Night (8346678) 3.10 Someone at the Door (6736543) 4.15 Jobfinder (5565974) 4.55-5.30 The Time . the Place (2377814)

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.55 Art Works (90348546) 2.25-3.20 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (5313055) 5.10-5.40 Eye TV (7877054) 6.30-7.00 HTV News (719) 12.05am Spotlight (1771098) 12.35-1.00 The Powers That Be (1737123) 4.15-4.55 Jobfinder (5565974)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (719) 10.30-10.40 HTV Wales News and Weather (818887) 12.05am-12.35 Primetime (1771098)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Meridian News and Weather (1966910) 12.20pm-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (7189500) 1.55 A Country Practice (91396429) 2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (6587697) 3.25-3.30 Meridian News and Weather (5589719) 5.10 Home and Away (7877054) 5.37 Three Minutes - The Listings (251974) 5.40 ITN News; Weather (982871) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (239) 6.30-7.00 Country Ways (719) 10.30-10.40 Meridian News and Weather (818887) 12.05am-1.00 Phoenix (5155659) 1.45 The Sicilians (4060678) 3.55 The Time... the Place (9220765) 4.30 Yan Can Cook (91098) 5.00-5.30 Freescreen (71746)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (91396429) 2.20 Wish You Were Here...? (17959697) 2.50 Help Yourself (2896513) 2.55-3.20 Shortland Street (7752535) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7877054) 5.55 Tyne Tees Today (434581) 6.30-7.00 The Dales Diary (719) 12.05am Prisoner Cell Block H (5155659) 1.00 Cross Shot (352017) 2.35 The New Music (9515098) 3.35 The Chart Show (2698272) 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder (46494)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (1966910) 12.20pm Westcountry News (7278448) 12.25-12.30 My Story (7277719) 1.55 Gardeners' Diary (90348546) 2.25-2.55 The Young Doctors (17958968) 3.25-3.30 Westcountry News; Weather (5589719) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7877054) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (91351) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; Weather (818887) 12.05am Crime Story (2818814) 12.55-1.00 My Story (1037052) 4.15-4.55 Jobfinder (5565974)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (91396429) 2.20 Wish You Were Here...? (17959697) 2.50 Help Yourself (2896513) 2.55-3.20 Shortland Street (7752535) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7877054) 5.55 Calendar (434581) 6.30-7.00 The Dales Diary (719) 10.30-10.40 Calendar News and Weather (818887) 12.05am Prisoner Cell Block H (5155659) 1.00 Cross Shot (352017) 2.35 The New Music (9515098) 3.35 The Chart Show (2698272) 4.30-5.30 Jobfinder (46494)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (54413) 9.00 You Bet Your Life (52974) 9.30 Ysgolion (897790) 12.00pm Right To Reply (69210) 12.30 Slot Meithrin (81974) 1.00 The Magic Roundabout (57500) 1.30 Home Movies (80245) 2.00 The Smallest Show On Earth (90121) 3.30 Living With Dinosaurs (70055) 4.30 Batman (516) 5.00 5 Pump (6987603) 5.15 5 Pump (9389413) 5.30 Countdown (968) 6.00 Newyddion (629351) 6.20 Heno (233429) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (4326) 7.30 Sgorio (77448) 8.30 Newyddion (2581) 9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (8719) 9.30 Roseanne (98210) 10.00 NYPD Blue (5142) 11.00 Sybil (902806) 12.55am Home Improvement (9184901)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (84429) 8.00 The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (29149) 8.30 The DJ Kat Show (4821413) 8.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show (2596500) 9.30 Card Sharks (41326) 10.00 Concentration (8234307) 10.25 Dynamo Duck (8509982) 10.30 Candid Camera (12326) 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (77332) 12.00 The Urban Peasant (79626) 12.30pm E Street (45142) 1.00 St Elsewhere (40697) 2.00 Heroes (51806) 3.00 Oprah Winfrey (9964968) 3.50 DJ Kat (1622332) 4.15 Power Rangers (4043784) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (9803) 6.00 Gamesworld (4887) 6.30 Blockbusters (2239) 7.00 E Street (8072) 7.30 M*A*S*H (7351) 8.00 Adventures of Brisco County Jr (87142) 9.00 Civil Wars (70806) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (73893) 11.00 Late Show with David Letterman (393158) 11.45 Littlejohn (592626) 12.30am Chances (98562) 1.30 Night Court (71307) 2.00-6.00 Hitmix Long Play (4437982)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (9809061) 9.30 Worldwide Report (6875863) 10.10 CBS 60 Minutes (1054210) 1.30pm CBS News (79413) 2.30 Parliament Live (93429) 6.05 Littlejohn (142603) 9.10 CBS 60 Minutes (436210) 11.30 CBS News (47603) 12.30am ABC *News (6429185) 1.10 60 Minutes (8038949)* 2.30 Parliament Replay (34185) 4.30 CBS News (60096) 5.30 ABC News

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (2498210) 10.00 The Dove (1974) (29158) 12.00 The Mirror Crack'd (1980) (614061) 1.45pm Hello, Dolly! (1969) (18862622) 4.10 Across the Great Divide (1977) (74093239) 6.00 Archer (1985) (71581) 8.00 Fatal Friendship *(1992) (96057968) 9.40 Unforgiven* (1992) (74506993) 11.50 All Shook Up! (1993) (655326) 1.25am Dying to Love You (1993) (2101746) 2.55 Blindsided (1993) (6298494) 4.25-6.00 Across the Great Divide (1977) As 4.10pm (611368)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Star Wars (1977) (57993) 8.00 The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds (1972) (58210) 10.00-*12.00 Rambo III (1988) (32142)*

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Trouble with Angels (1966) (55075500) 8.10 Kidnapped: Animation (9358974) 9.05 The Magic Voyage: Children's fantasy (2302210) 10.30 The Story of Esther Costello (1957) (59848264) 12.15pm The Pirates of Blood River (1962) (617158) 2.00 My Man Godfrey (1936) (285879) 3.35 Kidnapped. As 8.10am (2732968) 4.30 The Magic Voyage: As 9.05am (4613887) 5.55 Stompin' at the Savoy (1992) (16248887) *7.30 UK Top Ten* (7531) 8.00 Last Action Hero (1993) (94753142) 10.10 One False Move (1992) (990554) 11.55 Angel Street (1992) (652239) 1.30am In the Deep Woods (1992) (590475) 3.05 Dead Sleep (1991) *(6526307) 4.35-6.00 Stompin' at the* Savoy: As 5.55pm (3657727)

● For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Max Out (27351) 7.30 Watersports World (93968) 8.30 American Sports Cavalcade (27603) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (76697) 10.00 The Big League (52061) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (34177) 12.30pm Super Sunday (41061) 2.30 Ford Scorpio US PGA Golf (435187) 5.00 WWF Mania (2719) 6.00 Soccer News (973239) 6.15 Cricket Preview (955784) 7.00 Footballer's Football Show (14210) 8.00 Ringside Special: Roberto Duran v Vinny Pazienza (97054) 10.00 Soccer News (305055) 10.15 International Cricket Preview (530852) 11.00 Footballer's Football (30871) 12.00 Max Out (95727) 12.30am Snowboard Tour (67456) 1.00 Fish Tails (8842833) 1.15 Ringside Special *(430369) 3.00-7.00 Live Cricket (9378369)*

EUROSPORT

7.30am Alpine Skiing (84264) 8.30 Ski Jumping (49871) 9.30 Rally Raid (67993) *10.00 Live Tennis (8630644)* 6.30pm Eurosport News (9351) 7.00 Speedworld (36055) 9.00 Tennis (97080) 10.00 Football (84429) 11.30 Golf (65332) 12.30-1.00am Eurosport News (52524)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 The Way of Life (2909968) 12.30pm Kids Down Under (8209603) 1.00 The Great Escape (4328448) 1.30 Cooking in America (8307974) 2.00 California Gold (6875595) 2.30 The Way of Life (8411264) 3.00 Scenes of Serenity (7509332) 4.00 Iceland Week (8402516) 4.30 Kids Down Under (8328500) 5.00 Trailside (7924087) 5.30 Cooking in America (8319852) 6.00 Australia (8412993) 6.30 Discover Your World — Cuba (8403245) 7.00 American Vacation (4641535) 8.00 Around the World (5029451) 8.30 Sky Travel Guide (7025036) 9.00 Getaway (7517351) 9.30 Discover Your World — Cuba (8122239) 10.00 Trailside — Make Your Own Adventure (2900697) 10.30 American Vacation (7199968) 11.30-12.00 California Gold (8558264)

Barbra Streisand stars in Hello, Dolly! (Sky Movies, 1.45pm)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (2999581) 8.30 Peyton Place (2398852) 9.00 As the World Turns (9810177) 10.00 Guiding Light (4239968) 11.00-12.00 Another World (4565637)

TLC

9.00am Crawshaw's Watercolour Studio (7371413) 9.30 Madeleine Cooks (2743239) 10.00 Divorcing Daddy (4541516) 10.30 Only Human (2061968) 11.30 Frontiers (2376429) 12.00 Who Cares Wins (7464177) 12.30pm Learning to Be Mum (2747055) 1.00 Madeleine Cooks (7510177) 1.30 Crawshaw's Watercolour Studio (2746326) 2.00 We Are Your Neighbours (4082069) 2.30 The Sick Kids (7574239) 3.00 How Does Your Garden Grow? (6044734) 3.30-4.00 Green Pages (7579784)

UK GOLD

7.00am Blankety Blank (7513264) 7.30 Neighbours (7429871) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (7463448) 8.30 EastEnders (7462719) 9.00 The Bill (7373871) 9.30 Flesh and Blood (2468993) 10.30 Juliet Bravo (2063326) 11.30 No Place Like Home (2378387) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (7466535) 12.30pm Neighbours (2749413) 1.00 EastEnders (7512535) 1.30 The Bill *(2746784) 2.00 Spring and Autumn* (2262097) 2.30 Rings on Their Fingers (7576697) 3.00 Knots Landing (2372603) 4.00 Dynasty (2288210) 5.00 Every Second Counts (3283142) 5.35 Top of the Pops (2170968) 5.55 Porridge (7555413) 6.30 EastEnders (7664806) 7.00 The Two Ronnies (9553500) 8.00 Life Without George (7333531) 8.30 My Wife Next Door (3632528) 9.00 Tenko (9559784) 10.00 The Bill (7487264) 10.30 Top of the Pops (6711055) 11.05 Ripping Yarns (2380036) *11.45 Dr Who (9974239) 12.15am* Rockliffe's Babies (38654611) 1.20 Squadron (6594307) 2.20-5.00 Shopping at Night (4420982)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (9500142) 6.55 Garfield and Friends (3819245) 7.25 Eek the Cat (6022332) 7.55 Pugwall (5311413) 8.25 Super Mario Brothers (6560500) 8.45 Casper and Friends (3788055) 9.00 Sesame Street (19393) 10.00 It's *Droobee Time* (98887) 12.00 Garfield and Friends (63603) 12.30pm Eek the Cat (16239) 1.00 Beverly Hills Teens (59535) 1.30 Super Mario Brothers (40030087) 1.45 Baby Follies (59585992) 2.00 Barney (6500) 2.30 Babar (7142) 3.00 Casper (6547061) 3.15 Gravedale High (134516) 3.45 Sonic the Hedgehog (133887) 4.15 Head to Head in 3D (4940852) 4.30-5.00 Pugwall (2846)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Nickalive (1218448) 7.15 Pee-Wee's Playhouse (245061) 7.45 Rugrats (244332) 8.15 Doug (339974) 8.45 Nickalive (9464581) 9.00 Nick Jr. (945142) 12.00 Pee-Wee's *Playhouse* (32719) 12.30pm The Muppet Show (78055) 1.00 Galaxy High School (24264) 1.30 Banana Sandwich (77326) 2.00 Denver (1734) 2.30 Smoggies (7516) 3.00 Nick Faves (6581) 3.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (2061) 4.00 Doug (5968) 4.30 Rugrats (4852) 5.00 Clarissa (8326) 5.30 Nickalive (1332) 6.00 Grimmy (8245) 6.30-7.00 Dracula (6696)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Global Family (7661719) 4.30 Earthfile (7650603) 5.00 Chrome Dreams (1832546) 6.00 Beyond 2000 (2828974) 7.00 Next Step (1612505) 7.30 Future Quest (7651332) 8.00 Space Age (9633790) 9.00 Reaching for the Skies: history of aviation (9557326) 10.00 Compass (9550413) 11.00 Special Forces (2287581) 11.30-12.00 Those Who Dare Quaterback (4467500)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Half Human (1955) Horror starring John Carradine (48879448) 1.10pm Home of Your Own (7808852) 2.00 The Avengers (4468871) 3.00 My Three Sons (5432500) 3.30 The Beverly Hillbillies (7566210) 4.00 FILM The Man Who Wouldn't Talk: Spy drama with Anna Neagle and Anthony Quayle (2383036) 6.00 The Protectors (7668622) 6.30 Cannon (2643210) 7.30 The Invisible Man (7655158) 8.00 The Avengers (9637516) 9.00 The Twilight Zone (9544852) 10.00-12.00 FILM Ché: The life-story of revolutionary Ché *Guevara (Omar Sharif) (2293142)*

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (2432852) 7.00 Living Magazine (2598790) 8.00 Rosemary Conley (1138516) 8.15 Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga (1055239) 8.30 Women Mean Business (7646697) 9.00 Masterchef (4861697) 9.35 Now You See It (7228177) 10.00 Trivia Trap (4608326) 10.30 The Susan Powter Show (7722061) 11.00 The Young and the *Restless (3642719) 12.00 Rendezvous* (6097513) 12.35pm Kilroy (2380332) 1.30 On The House (4390968) 2.00 Agony Hour (4609055) 3.00 Living Magazine (4723429) 3.45 Gladrags and Glamour (87047142) 4.00 Infatuation (5739245) 4.30 Trivia Trap (10953887) 4.55 A Taste of Japan (2546326) 5.30 Kate and Allie (5646581) 6.00 The Susan Powter Show (5749622) 6.30 The New Mr and Mrs Show (5730974) 7.00 Living Magazine (7016167) 8.00 The Young and the Restless (8287777) 9.00 FILM Shattered Spirits (1986): Alcoholic Martin Sheen tortures his family (7810564) 11.00 New Mr and Mrs Show (7636790) 11.30-12.00 Infatuation UK (4697210)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Danger Mouse (7852) 5.30 Motormouth (721974) 6.25 All Clued Up (867055) 7.00 Trivial Pursuit (2036) 7.30 My Two Dads (1535) 8.00 Road to Avonlea *(65968) 9.00 Moonlighting (41332) 10.00* Family Catchphrase (64332) 10.30 GP (77852) 11.00 Lou Grant (63784) 12.00 Rhoda (55123) 12.30am Big Brother Jake (10562) 1.00 Danger Mouse (92340) 1.30 Trivial Pursuit (35643) 2.00 Moonlighting (74104) 3.00 Lou Grant (38949) 4.00 Rhoda (89901) 4.30-5.00 Big Brother Jake (13833)

MTV

5.00am Awake on the Wildside (60185) 6.30 The Grind (38500) 7.00 Awake on the Wildside (68806) 8.00 VJ Ingo (939061) 11.00 Soul (57177) 12.00 Greatest Hits (93332) 1.00pm The Afternoon Mix (635448) 3.30 Report (8379887) 3.45 CineMatic (8294142) 4.00 News (4032887) 4.15 3 from 1 (4942210) 4.30 Dial (2264) 5.00 Hit List UK (80326) 7.00 Greatest Hits (54806) 8.00 Unplugged with Paul Simon (67326) 9.00 The Real World 3 (29622) 9.30 Beavis and Butt-Head (94061) 10.00 Report (830326) 10.15 CineMatic (828581) 10.30 News at Night (638603) 10.45 3 from 1 (633158) 11.00 The End? (11581) 1.00am Soul (58543) 2.00 The Grind (81497) 2.30-5.00 Night Videos (242456)

VH-1

7.00am Crawling from the Wreckage (4325719) 9.00 Café (9666581) 12.00 The Bridge (2230535) 1.30pm Ten of the Best (4277871) 2.30 Heart and Soul (7197968) 3.30 Into the Music (4770055) 6.00 Prime Cuts (8112852) 7.00 For You (4643995) 8.00 Album Chart (4630429) 10.00 The Bridge (9816351) 11.30 1 to 1 (8550622) 12.00 The Nightfly (2597098) 2.00am Prime Cuts (5749253) 3.00 Album Chart (6960253) 5.00-7.00 Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from 6am to 7pm, including 5.00pm Saturday Nite Dance Ranch 6.00-7.00 Big Ticket

TV ASIA

6.00am Persian Dawn (96500) 7.00 Asian Morning (91239) 8.30 Bunyaad (83413) 9.00 Pakistani Film: Jurat (583326) 12.00 Ghar (15500) 1.00pm Hindi Film: Janoo *(499413) 4.00 Drama Nauraena (25806)* 5.00 Cookery Programme (7906) 5.30 Tik Tik Tik (5784) 6.00 TVA and You (8245) 6.30 Bunyaad (8697) 7.00 Baba Jaan and Sons (4790) 7.30 Des Pardes (5581) 8.00 News Bulletin (7210) 8.30 Mano Ya Na Mano (9245) 9.00 Hindi Film (504784) 12.00 Asian Morning (18475) 1.30-6.00am Sight and Sound (9129524)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
Theme: Spotlight on Lionel Barrymore
7.00 The Gorgeous Hussy (1936) (82806697) **9.00 Saratoga** (1937) (26783806) **10.45 On Borrowed Time** (1939) (57062326) **12.40am Young Dr Kildare** (1938) (35135746) **2.15-5.00 Calling Dr Gillespie** (1942) (84093746)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news coverage and QVC is the home shopping channel

صكنا من الاجل

GULF VENTURE 41
BRITISH GAS JOINS FORCES TO DEVELOP FIELD IN QATAR

BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 16 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

ITALIAN DREAM 42
GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON THE APOLITICAL GOVERNMENT

ICI and Glaxo join forces to replace CFCs

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

ICI and Glaxo have signed a key joint venture to produce the world's first CFC replacement for pharmaceuticals.

The chemicals group is also launching a large investment programme in America to boost worldwide production of CFC replacements by almost a quarter and maintain its global dominance of the market. The group is ready to manufacture commercial quantities of a new, industrial grade CFC replacement to meet increasingly stringent environmental regulations.

The joint venture between ICI and Glaxo is an important development for the chemical group, which demerged Zeneca, its own pharmaceutical company, in 1993. Under the terms of the agreement, Glaxo is providing all the funds to build the new plant at ICI's site in Runcorn, Cheshire, and will take all its production. In return, ICI will earn a generous management fee, reflecting the value of its proprietory technology.

The plant will manufacture a purified version of Klea, ICI's existing CFC replacement, called P134a, which will be safe to inhale. Glaxo intends to use this in its top-selling inhalable asthma drugs, including Ventolin and Becotide. The plant is expected to go into production later this year although P134a will need to be approved by worldwide health authorities, including the Food and Drug Administration in America.

Separately, ICI is proceeding with a major investment in its Klea plant at St Gabriel, Louisiana. The investment, worth an estimated £30 million, will increase the plant's capacity by more than 12,000 tonnes a year to 30,000 tonnes.

The project is the latest in a series of decisions by ICI to invest heavily in its developing businesses. Ronnie Hampel, ICI's deputy chairman, is a fervent believer that ICI must promote its growth businesses. "Historically we have not driven the good businesses hard enough," he said. ICI controls a third of the world's market in CFC replacements, and is determined to capitalise on its technology as the market expands.

Geoff Tudhope, managing director of ICI's fluorochemicals division, said the expansion was needed to keep pace with demand and that the extra capacity would come on stream next year. "Customers are switching over fast and sales are rising rapidly," he said.

Under the terms of the Montreal Protocol, all manufacturing of CFCs, which are thought to deplete the ozone layer, had to cease in Europe at the end of last year.

Mr Tudhope said that prices for CFC replacement had fallen sharply in the past two years despite rising demand. "There is suicide pricing in some areas as some players seek to get a position in the market. But ICI was in early and we have brought unit costs down." Prices have fallen by as much as 30 per cent in the past two years.

The expansion of the St Gabriel plant will bring ICI's production capacity of Klea to 55,000 tonnes a year and keep it in contention with DuPont, the other main producer of CFC replacements.

ICI has now built a plant at Runcorn to produce commercial quantities of an industrial version of Klea, called Klea 32. This can be used in factories and large freezer units where temperatures as low as -50C are required. ICI's board is expected to be asked to sanction a large investment programme in Klea 32 later this year in an attempt to ensure that the group has substantial capacity to manufacture the chemical from 1996 onwards. Demand for an industrial CFC replacement is expected to surge in 1996 since the Montreal Protocol calls for an end to manufacturing of industrial grade CFCs from the end of this year.

Names get ruling today on payment

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE chances of Gooda Walker names receiving a part payment of their estimated £504 million court award will become clearer today when Mr Justice Phillips rules on whether the defendants' insurance cover will respond to such a payment.

The judge will also decide on how best to divide up the funds available to meet damages awarded to Lloyd's names. The total damages claimed by names is more than £3 billion, and is significantly more than the amount of insurance cover available. That is, there is a limited amount of errors and omissions insurance cover available to meet names' claims against Lloyd's agencies.

The concern is that the first successful group actions, led by the Gooda Walker action, would exhaust the E&O pot, leaving nothing for later actions.

Mr Justice Phillips, the judge for the Gooda Walker and Feltrim actions, decided to tackle the issue after the Gooda Walker names' High Court victory last year. He has to decide whether damages should be paid out on a "first come, first served" basis or by giving all successful litigants a share in the E&O funds.

The rulings follow a pre-trial review on November 25, which was attended by legal representatives for most of the action groups. Those who took part have agreed to be bound by Mr Justice Phillips's rulings.

The Gooda Walker names' application for an interim payment will be heard on February 6. A date has not yet been set for the appeal against last year's High Court ruling.

Roger Elmhirst, left, chairman of Zotefoams, and Bill Fairservice with foam blocks from their flotation-bound company

BP buyout heading for market at £50m

BY OUR DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

A FORMER part of BP's chemicals division is planning a £50 million return to the stock market. Zotefoams, a polyethylene foam producer bought out by management from BP two years ago, is coming to market valued at an estimated £50 million.

The float will make millionaires of the five directors who organised the buyout. Bill Fairservice, managing director, and his colleagues took a 28 per cent stake in the buyout vehicle for £500,000. After the float, their stake will be worth an estimated £10 million.

Zotefoams, based in Croydon, has more than doubled its profits since the buyout. Last year, it estimates, it made an operating profit of £5.4 million, up 39 per cent on 1993. That compares with £2.4 million in 1992, its last year in BP. During those two years, turnover has risen by 35 per cent, to £17.4 million.

The float, sponsored by NatWest Markets, will raise £15 million to pay off borrowings and preference shares arranged at the buyout. This will leave Zotefoams debt-free and well placed to expand.

The company, with 190 staff, has begun an £8 million investment programme that should increase its manufacturing capacity by more than half.

The buyout cost only £20 million, even though BP had invested a similar sum on improving facilities.

Nadir faces vital payment deadline

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

ASIL NADIR, fugitive former head of collapsed Polly Peck International, must meet a payment deadline to the northern Cyprus government today or face sequestration of the PPI businesses he controls locally.

Last month, Mr Nadir, who has successfully denied the PPI administrators control of their asset portfolio in northern Cyprus, was forced to sell property, including his mother's house, to raise £250,000 as the first instalment of a 24-month debt settlement deal.

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, has warned the northern Cyprus government that Turkey will not be able to maintain its annual support of about £50 million if the Turkish Cypriot authorities fail to collect money owed to them by local businessmen, including Mr Nadir.

Despite the New Year's Eve bombing of Everest Bank, a Nicosia bank owned by Elmas Guzelyurglu, local interest in buying the PPI portfolio has increased. Mr Guzelyurglu had been the only local businessman to have shown interest in buying the PPI assets, whose book value is about £50 million. But it has emerged that the administrators are talking to "several" local interests regarding the sale of all or some of the properties.

Cetin Karahan, the northern Cyprus chief of police, said he thought the bombing was not linked to Mr Nadir, but reflected fierce local rivalry over the casino at Jasmine Court, the luxury PPI hotel.

Reports circulating in Nicosia have put the instalment that Mr Nadir is due to pay the government today at £65,000. The administrators believe that his personal assets are running out and that he will have payment difficulties during the current low season for the hotel business that he runs, the main cash generators of the local PPI portfolio.

Ibrahim Karagoslu, one of the two men arrested by the police in connection with the bank bombing has firmly rejected reports that he is a close associate of Mr Nadir, or that he had anything to do with the bombing.

GEC ahead in Far East power station bids

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GEC ALSTHOM is poised to win almost £1 billion of work on the construction of two power stations in the Far East.

The company, a 50/50 joint venture between GEC of Britain and Alcatel Alsthom of France, is the clear front runner for two projects in the Philippines and China.

If the bids are successful, about half the manufacturing work is likely to come to Britain.

The most valuable deal for GEC Alsthom is likely to be the £900 million contract to design, build, finance and operate a 600-megawatt coal-fired power station on the Philippine island of Luzon. GEC Alsthom, which is bidding in partnership with Gordon Wu, the Hong Kong financier and construction magnate, would expect to secure work equal to 60 per cent of the project value.

Financing arrangements for three-quarters of the funding are reported to be already in place, along with certain guarantees from Britain's Export Credits Guarantees Department and Coface, its French counterpart.

Under the proposals, the GEC Alsthom consortium will operate the station for 25 years, after which it becomes the property of the Philippines' National Power Corporation.

At the same time, the Anglo-French group, bidding in partnership with Framatome, the French nuclear plant constructor, is believed to be front runner to win a £1.8 billion contract to build the Daya Bay 2 plant at Lingao, on Hainan island, off southern China.

The twin-reactor, 2,000 megawatt plant is expected to be a replica of the nearby Daya Bay 1 plant, already being built by a team from GEC and Framatome under a contract secured before the GEC-Alcatel link was formed.

Under the Daya Bay 2 bid, Framatome would again take responsibility for the nuclear construction, while GEC Alsthom would build the conventional island of turbines and generators.

If the contracts are secured, high- and medium-pressure steam turbines for both plants are expected to be built at Rugby, Warwickshire. The low-pressure turbines would come from Belfort in France. Other electrical equipment would be drawn from both Britain and France.

Saatchi & Saatchi tries to stave off legal threat

Not losing hope: a director of a rival advertising agency seizes the chance to recruit outside Saatchi's head office

BY SARAH BAGNALL

SAATCHI & SAATCHI yesterday promised to vigorously defend itself against any legal actions by shareholders claiming damages as a result of the departure of Maurice Saatchi, the former chairman. It also tried to place the blame for the sharp fall in the advertising agency's share price on Mr Saatchi and senior executives who have left the company to set up a rival agency.

Wendy Smyth, Saatchi's finance director, said: "I believe the events of the last ten days have been not of the company's doing, but they have been orchestrated by the people who have left the company."

The remarks follow the threat of a $150 million legal action by US shareholders, claiming damages for the decline in the value of their holdings because of the departure of Mr Saatchi. Since Mr Saatchi left on December 16, the agency's share price has fallen by a third, cutting £110 million off its stock market valuation.

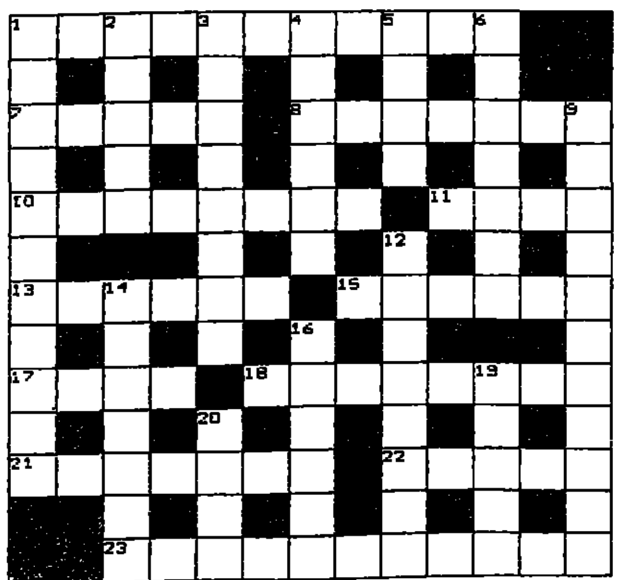
William I. Rothbard, an American law firm, warned the directors in December that legal action was a possibility if they ousted Mr Saatchi as chairman without seeking the views of all shareholders at an extraordinary meeting. The company yesterday said that it had not received a writ but that "it should not be forgotten that the company is suing the former chairman and senior colleagues for conspiracy to damage the company".

Mrs Smyth, talking on BBC2's *Money Programme*, said: "The board and the employees around the world believe that the people who have left have acted with the most cynical disregard for the company and its employees." In spite of taking legal action against the senior executives, Saatchi is bound by contractual obligations to pay them a total of about £2 million. This is believed to be divided as follows: Jeremy Sinclair, the former acting chairman, £300,000; Bill Muirhead, who headed Saatchi's US business, £600,000; David Kershaw, London agency chairman, £500,000; and the two creative directors and two managing directors about £150,000 each if they are on one-year contracts. If the payments are not made, then the individuals are free to start work at the new agency immediately.

Saatchi & Saatchi is seeking a new chairman and expects to make an announcement in the next few weeks. A shortlist has been drawn up with the help of headhunters. The appointment is likely to be part-time or non-executive.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 370



ACROSS
1 Acquire new owner (6,5)
7 Knocked over (5)
8 Roman satirist (7)
10 Accuse; strongly deplore (8)
11 Kick; propel boat (4)
13 Loud, rude laugh (6)
15 Cheap Oriental labourer (6)
17 Twisted to one side (4)
18 Initiated (music, acquaintance) (6,2)
21 River mouth (7)
22 Very brief moment (5)
23 Unrelenting (11)

DOWN
1 Terminal blow (4,2,5)
2 Malicious burning (5)
3 From the throat (8)
4 Illicitly commandeer (vehicle) (6)
5 Maritime force (4)
6 Arousing, gratifying, the flesh (7)
9 Method of printing in relief (11)
12 A flirt (8)
14 E M –, *A Passage to India* author (7)
16 Horse good for long races (6)
19 Cutting implement (5)
20 Close to a solution (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 369

ACROSS: 1 Spigot 5 Ripple 8 Wand 9 Omelette 10 Distant 11 Might 13 Travel agent 16 Hippo 18 Longbow 21 Achilles 22 Lion 23 Frothy 24 Ledger

DOWN: 2 Pianist 3 Godot 4 Trounced 5 Reef 6 Puerile 7 Latch 12 Carousel 14 Appoint 15 Twosome 17 Incur 19 Gelid 20 Cloy

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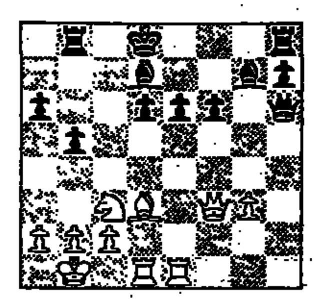
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



This position is from the game Nunn - Chandler, London 1985.
At first sight, it appears that it is Black's king that should give him the greatest cause for concern. However, it is in fact another feature of Black's position that causes his downfall. How did White continue?

Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 9

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JAWBONING
a. Shaving with cut-throat razor
b. A type of moulding
c. Government PR

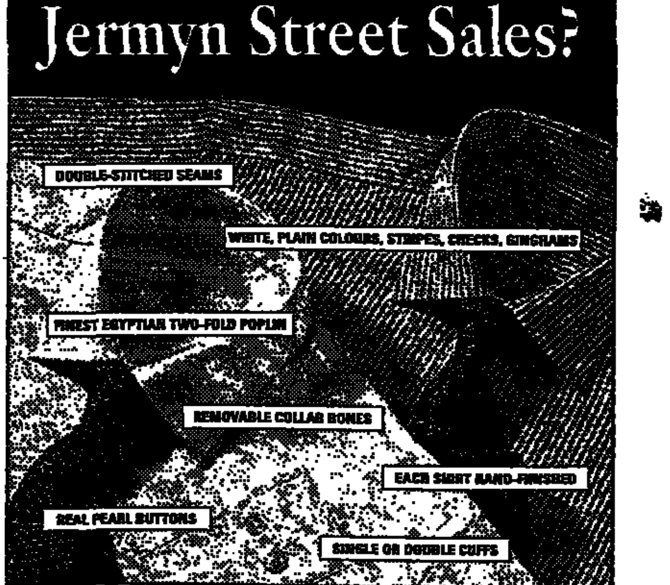
TERATOSIS
a. A freak
b. A scaly rash
c. Fear of reptiles

EPHEDRA
a. Byzantine emperor's throne
b. A sixth part
c. A trailing shrub

MACERATE
a. Rate of parliamentary questions per hour
b. Skinny
c. To soften by soaking

Answers on page 41

Who needs the Jermyn Street Sales?



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